

"Flushing Meadow is a very American, a very New York park because it gives culture to everyone who will partake, from the concept to the circus and it gladly takes the cultures of all who will come. A great spread of green on the map of Queens, it was not shaped by raging rivers and it is not surrounded by purple mountain majesties; it was shaped by people and it is surrounded by people.

Flushing Meadow has a long colorful history — sometimes splendid, sometimes sad. In a way, the parkland's history is actually a metaphor for the development of the American nation itself: early days of pastoral innocence, periods of careful cultivation followed by times of greedy exploitation and shameful neglect, then reborn into a hopeful garden again and proceeding into days of glory.

Always hopeful, always changing, always looking ahead to the best yet to come. Very much like America."

—Congressman Benjamin S. Rosenthal
address to Congress, 1976

Section 3.3

The City as a World's Fair

The Fairgrounds: Flushing Meadows

The hub of the fair should be in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, the City's largest land-area park, centrally located in the Borough of Queens. The 1,200 acre site is accessible by all means of public and private transportation. Its unique history as site of the 1939-40 and 1964-65 World's Fairs and first home of the United Nations General Assembly (as outlined in Chapter 2, Part 2, pp. 45-67) gives the site a visual character unlike any other site in the City.

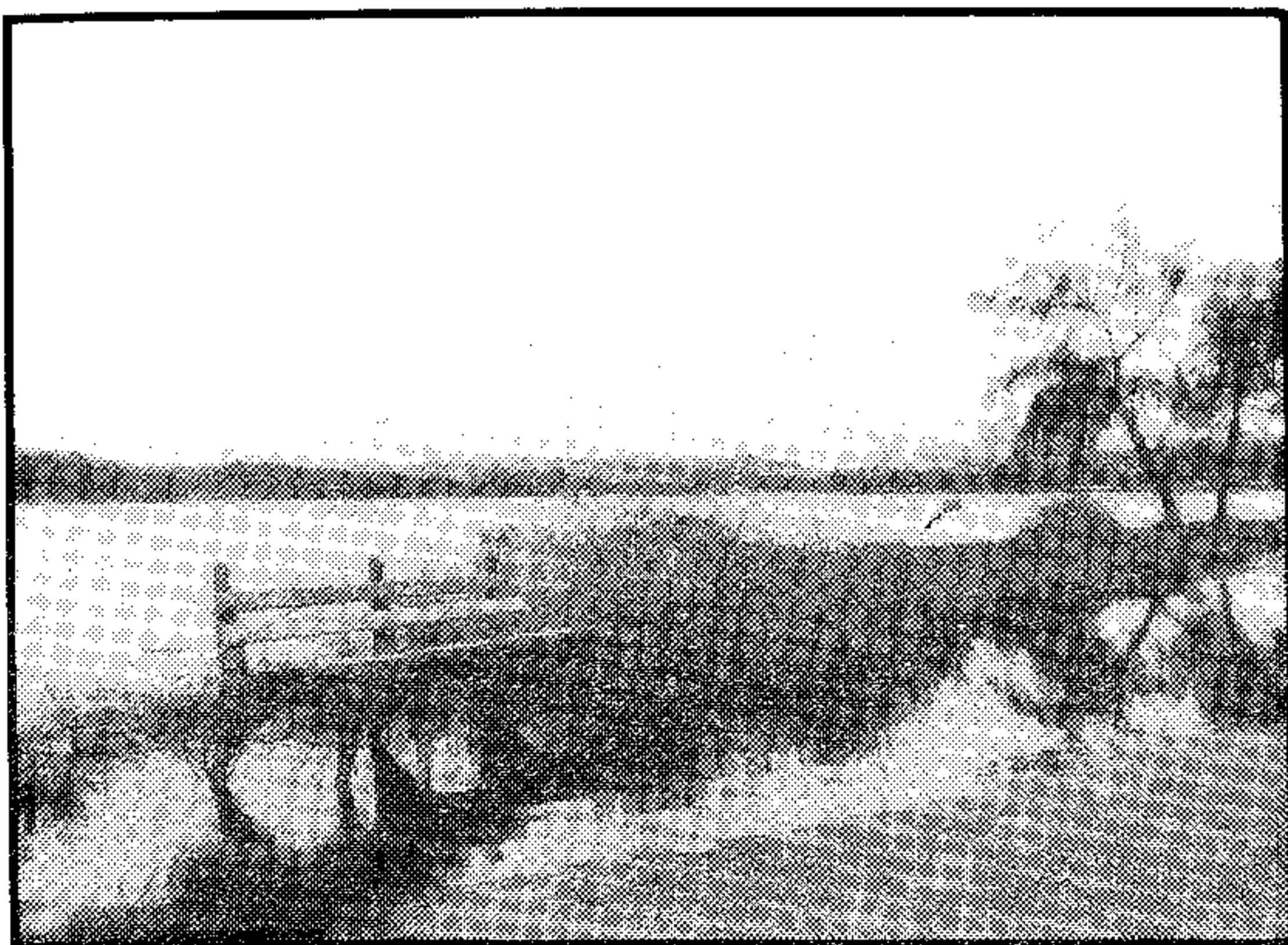
Robert Moses' vision of a meadow reclaimed from ecological devastation was brilliantly realized because of the 1939 Fair. The second Fair in 1964 provided the opportunity to leave behind additional facilities and improvements which were not possible in the war years that followed the first Fair. But political priorities and City fiscal budgets ebb and flow as the waters of the Flushing Bay had done. The waters of that bay are now stagnant, choked by years of neglect, abuse and industrial pollution. And Flushing Meadows-Corona Park has been neglected and is deteriorated.

Despite this, thousands of residents utilize the facilities and green spaces of this sprawling urban oasis.

Statistics show that more than 70% of the nation's population live in urban areas and the needs for recreational opportunities are dire. The restraints of fiscal conservatism have been necessary as the impending scarcity of fossil fuels is creating economic and social uncertainty. Cautious policy change appears to be a rational response to the headstrong race between rising energy costs and inflation. This race has left New York City's parks waiting apprehensively on the side-line. So Flushing Meadows' unique potential as a great recreational and cultural center has not been completely realized.

We believe that a third World's Fair, intelligently planned with the park's future in mind, can finally complete the dream. Many of the organizers of the 1989 Fair are community activists who have been involved for many years in the movement to preserve this and other parks from encroachments, abuse, and decay. Careful thought was given to the concept that perhaps this open space should not be used again for a great Fair—that the park should be inviolate and left as it is.





Flooding on Meadow Lake



Broken water fountains in Flushing Meadow-Corona Park

People perceive parks very differently. Some want a green, secluded refuge from the hectic day to day existence in the City. Some want open space designed to accommodate active sports and recreation. Other persons feel that cultural facilities should be situated in parks, like the traditional siting of art museums, museums of natural history, and outdoor theatres in American parks. Environmentalists and wild-life enthusiasts would like to see only minimal, discreet intrusion by human beings, into areas reserved for birds and other wildlife. Amateur horticulturists favor landscaped topography and botanical gardens with walkways winding through the plant species.

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is effectively all of these things, but efficiently none of these. Because this park does not satisfy any of these visions of what a park should be. Yet, there are areas for active recreation, a theatre, a museum, botanical gardens, lakes, a wildlife area, and even a zoo.

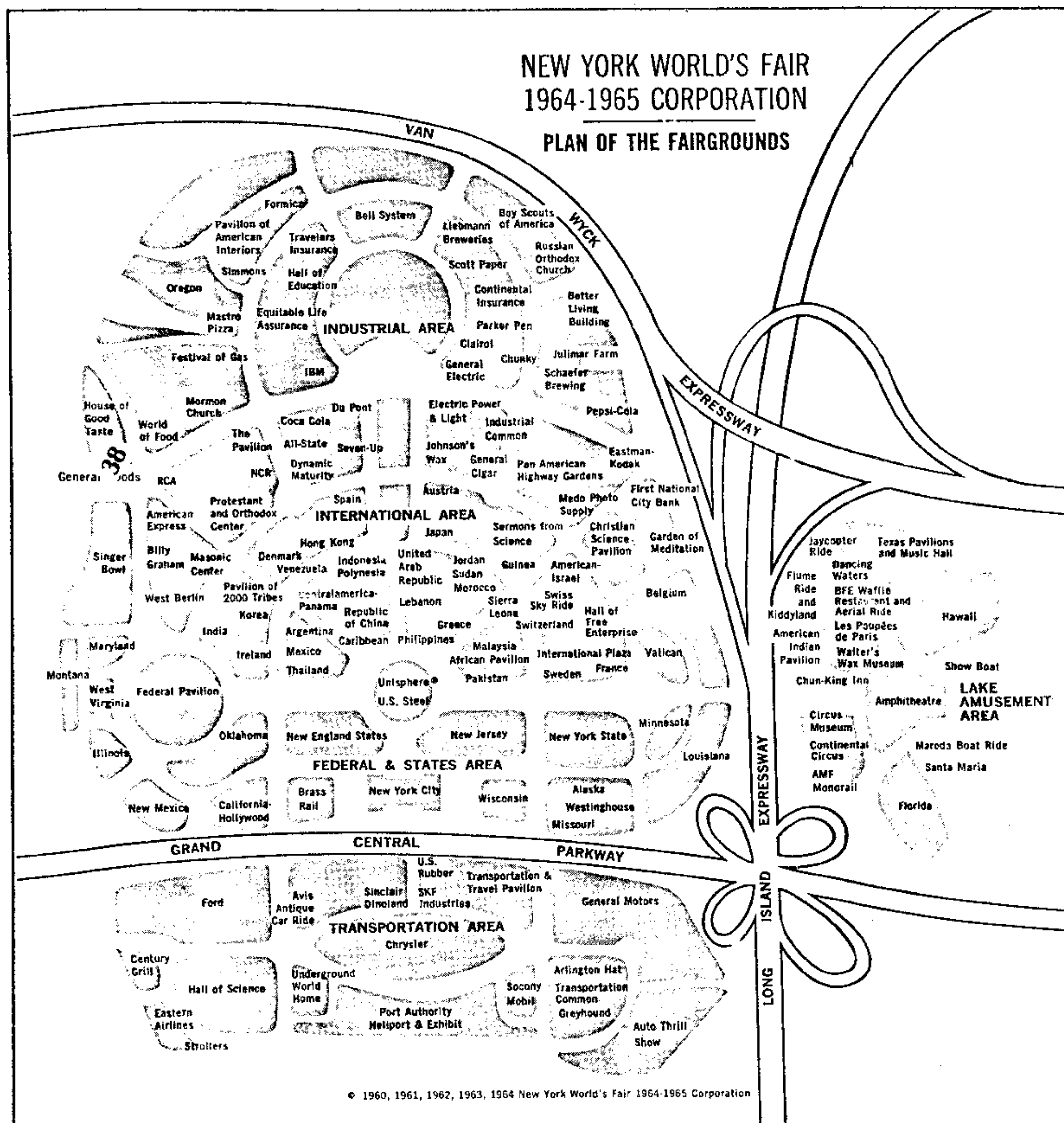
However, as was outlined in Chapter 2, part 3, we have sadly watched the park deteriorate. There has been little, if any, attempt at comprehensive site planning at the park since the last Fair. New development in the park has been haphazardly located with a minimal of concern for its impact upon surrounding areas of the park or the provision of certain support facilities.

The current park administration has made significant inroads in attempting to manage and plan the future of New York's parks system, particularly the large regional parks, such as Central Park, Prospect Park and Flushing Meadows. But the reality of city budget restraints makes this process a slow, uphill battle. And in the meantime, the park continues to deteriorate.

Therefore, we believe that the only means whereby this park can be fully restored would be through the 1989 exposition. To the argument that the park should not be disturbed at all, we answer that these grounds do not have a history borne out of images drafted by the famous landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead.

Nor is it an untrampled Eden nor a place punctuated by images recalling pastoral scenes from folios of 19th century English landscapes.

Instead, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park has a chronology which depicts a contemporary story. It rests on the 30 years accumulation of offscourings; tin cans, baby carriages and old umbrellas of Brooklyn. Its grounds were churned and changed twice in the last forty years for the two World's Fairs. And it is only through these two Fairs that we have a park on that site at all.



The radio-helicopter reporters who report the rush-hour traffic conditions refer to the site each day as "the fairgrounds," and that is exactly what this site had been designed as. Just as towns have a central place where annual town, county or state fairs are held, this site has served as the city's space for world festivals. Its design is reflected in the vast featureless spaces, and rigidly placed, over-scaled walkways and roadways. There is a peculiar Gettysburg feeling to the place as you walk the paths where millions had once visited.

But these systems which were designed to connect thousands of people to seas of parking lots and hundreds of exhibits are not appropriate to the use of the site as a park for recreational and cultural activities. The great site plan of radiating streets and axis lines which was brilliantly used as the "World of Tomorrow" at the 1939 fair was, unfortunately, retained almost intact at the 1964 fair. We believe that a third fair, with the goal of leaving behind a truly usable and beautiful park, should be planned with an imaginative and coordinated landscape that will correct the problems which the park now suffers from.

The visual character that FMCP has portrayed since the close of the Second World's Fair can be altered in positive manner through sensitive planning and design efforts.

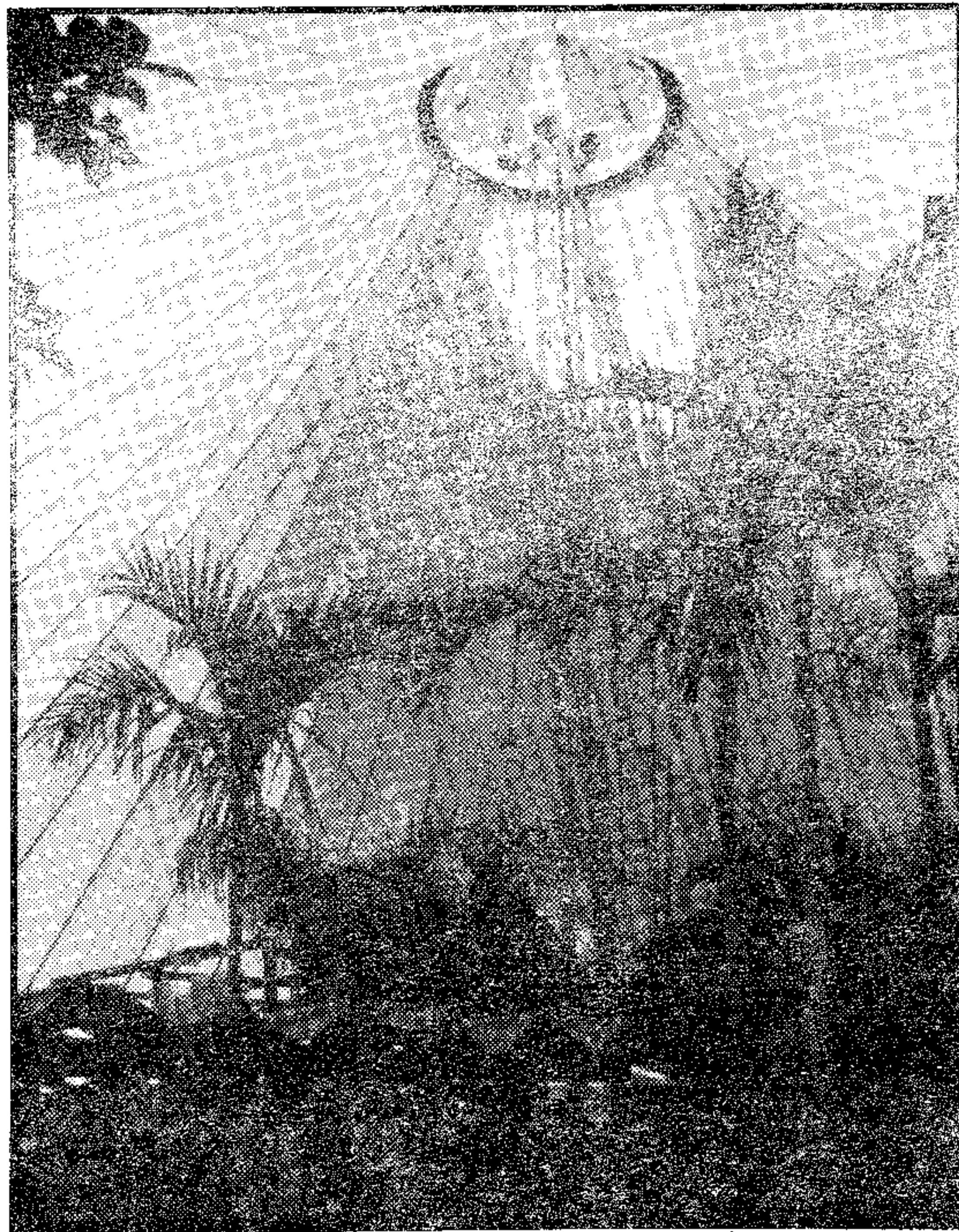
Generally, the park should be developed so it can be used as a major regional recreational facility conducive to the variety of activities and experiences associated with the regional parks throughout the City. This is not to say that FMCP should imitate and duplicate the visual character of Prospect or Van Cortlandt Parks, or that it could. Instead, the strategy is to build a park image based upon the existing quality and character emphasizing the positive elements, eliminating or screening the negative elements and incorporating those essential components that make parks a desirable place to be.

Some of the park's vast features are, however, conducive to a public park and in fact have grown to have their own tradition and beauty. The Main Mall, for instance, has trees originally planted for the 1939 Fair which have matured and frame the vista leading to the Unisphere which has become a landmark and central meeting place. It is that type of feature in the park which lends itself both for the needs of a fair, with the efficient movement of thousands of people, and to the park after. In addition, the park's infrastructure left from the previous fairs allows for a more cost-efficient use than would otherwise be the case if a totally new fair site were to be constructed.

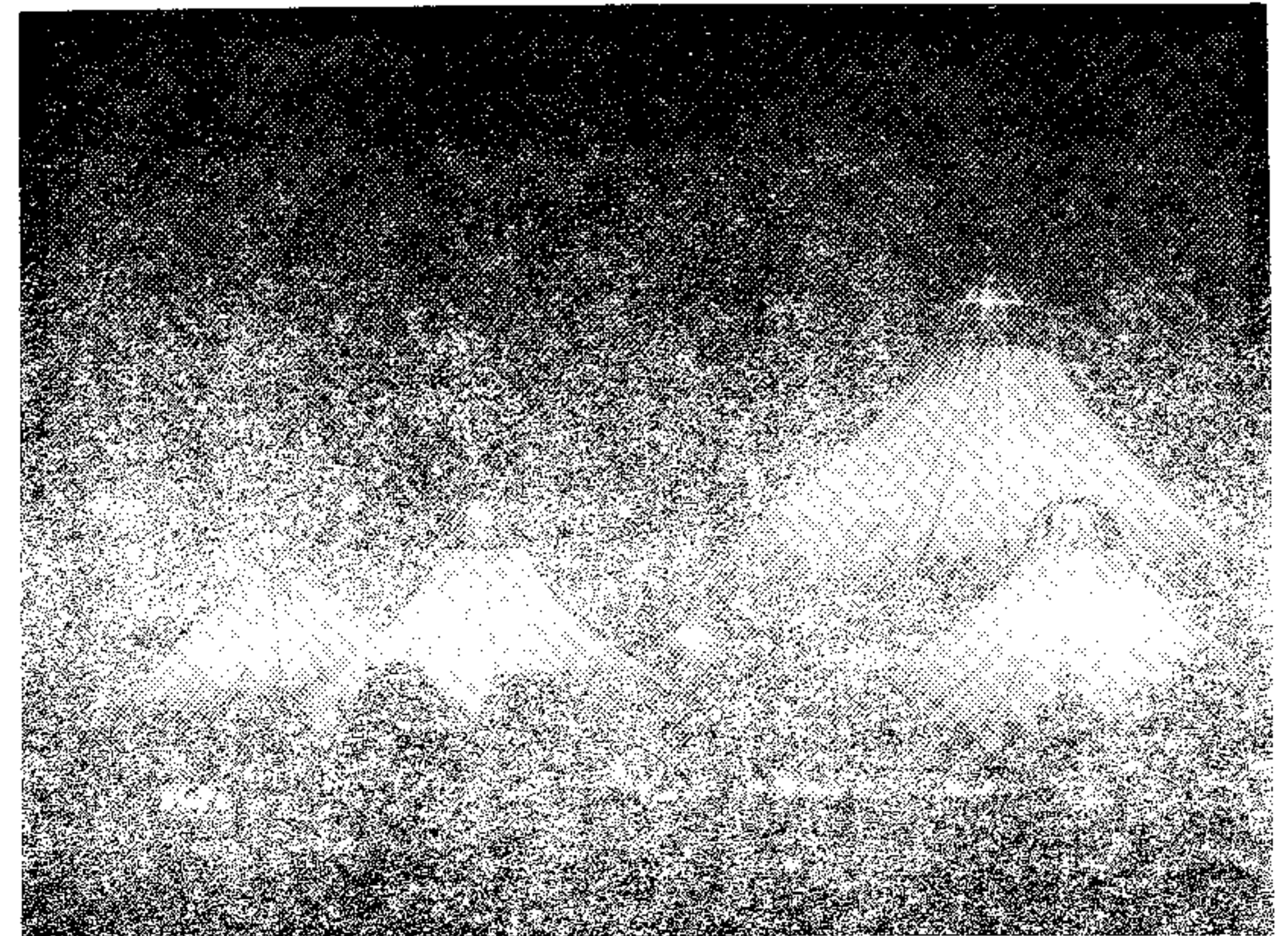
Use of the Site

Concerning the use of this site, the corporation has decided upon a number of important considerations:

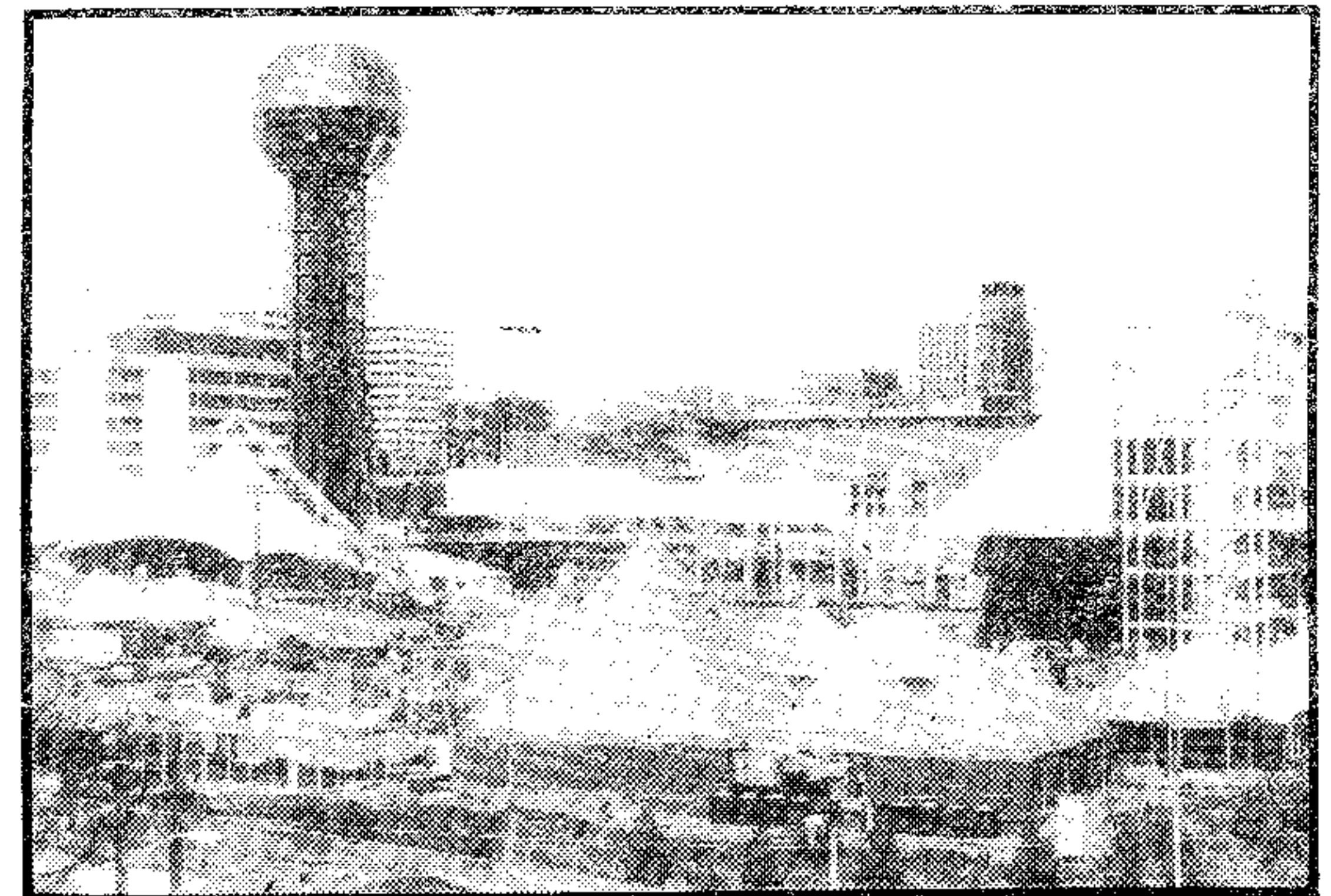
- We believe that a competition among landscape architects and architectural engineers should bring about innovative design structures for the fair and post-fair park. This design would be carefully coordinated with the City Parks Department and the Fair Corporation, the Borough President's Office, as well as with the five community planning boards that surround Flushing Meadows Park.
- We propose that the existing institutions within the park (i.e., The Queens Museum, New York Hall of Science, the Queens Botanical Gardens, the Queens Zoo and National Tennis Center) be retained and incorporated into the Fair. This can enable these facilities to be upgraded and highlighted by the exposure at the Fair.
- The Fair Corporation proposes that the central fairgrounds be scaled down significantly from the previous fairs. We believe that the 1989 fair should evoke a more intimate, festive feeling and a more human-sized exposition will integrate well with the proposed post-fair layout.
- We believe that the concept of large scale construction of giant temporary structures should be abandoned in favor of more cost-efficient and environmentally sound facilities. Many innovations in construction have transpired since the days of the 1964 Fair. Tension structures (such as used at Expo '70 and at Sea World in Florida) provide beautiful and sturdy designs that are imaginative, conducive to exhibitors and at the same time can be erected at lower costs with a minimum of disruption to the park environment.
- Many facilities should be designed for permanent use in the post-fair park. Whether it be an internal transit system to connect park facilities, a bandstand, swimming pool/skating recreation center, cultural center, etc. However, no structure should be left without a solid plan for its post-fair use and a pre-arranged set-up for its maintenance, funding and operation. No more white elephant structures such as the New York State Pavilion or the United States Pavilion should remain unless their future use is carefully planned for. Our economy can no longer afford the luxury of erecting many expensive temporary buildings and then having to tear them down at further expense — a wasteful procedure today.
- Certain features of the present fairgrounds should be retained and incorporated into the new fair, such as the Unisphere, Main Mall, all sound structures and monuments, all trees and the Fountain of the Planets.



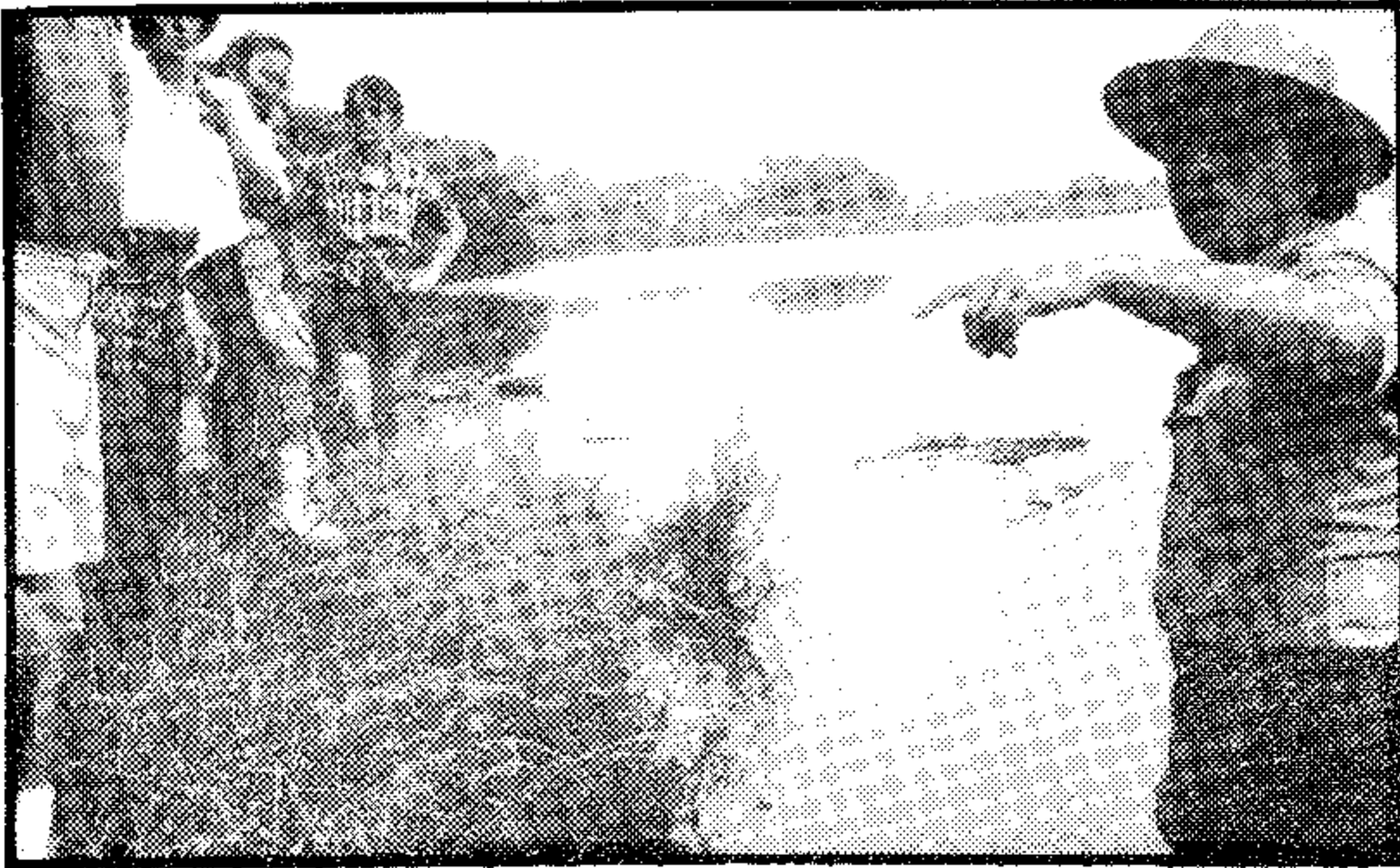
Tensile structures such as these used at Sea World in Florida provide beautiful, innovative, cost efficient and environmentally adaptive alternatives to the massive construction required for fair exhibition structures in the past. (Photos courtesy Robert Lamb Hart architects, planners.)



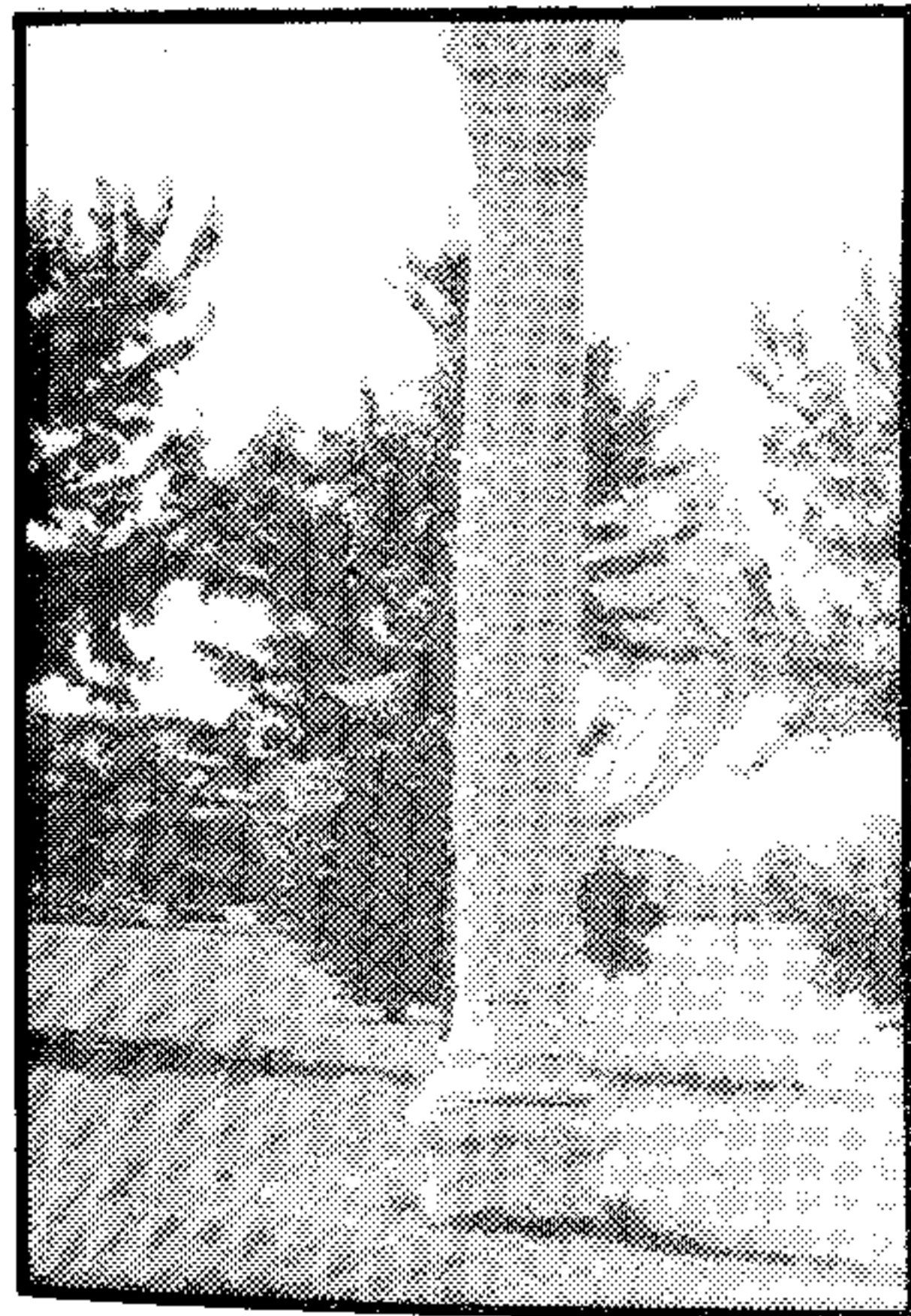
Tensile structures such as those used at Sea World in Florida and at the Knoxville Fair in Tennessee have changed the concept of temporary exhibition construction.



Tensile structures have been used at the 1982 Knoxville Fair (here shown with the Fair's theme tower, the Sunsphere, in the background.)



Urban park Rangers guide a tour through the wetlands at Willow Lake.



Ancient column of Jerash was left from the Jordan Pavilian in Flushing Meadow Park.



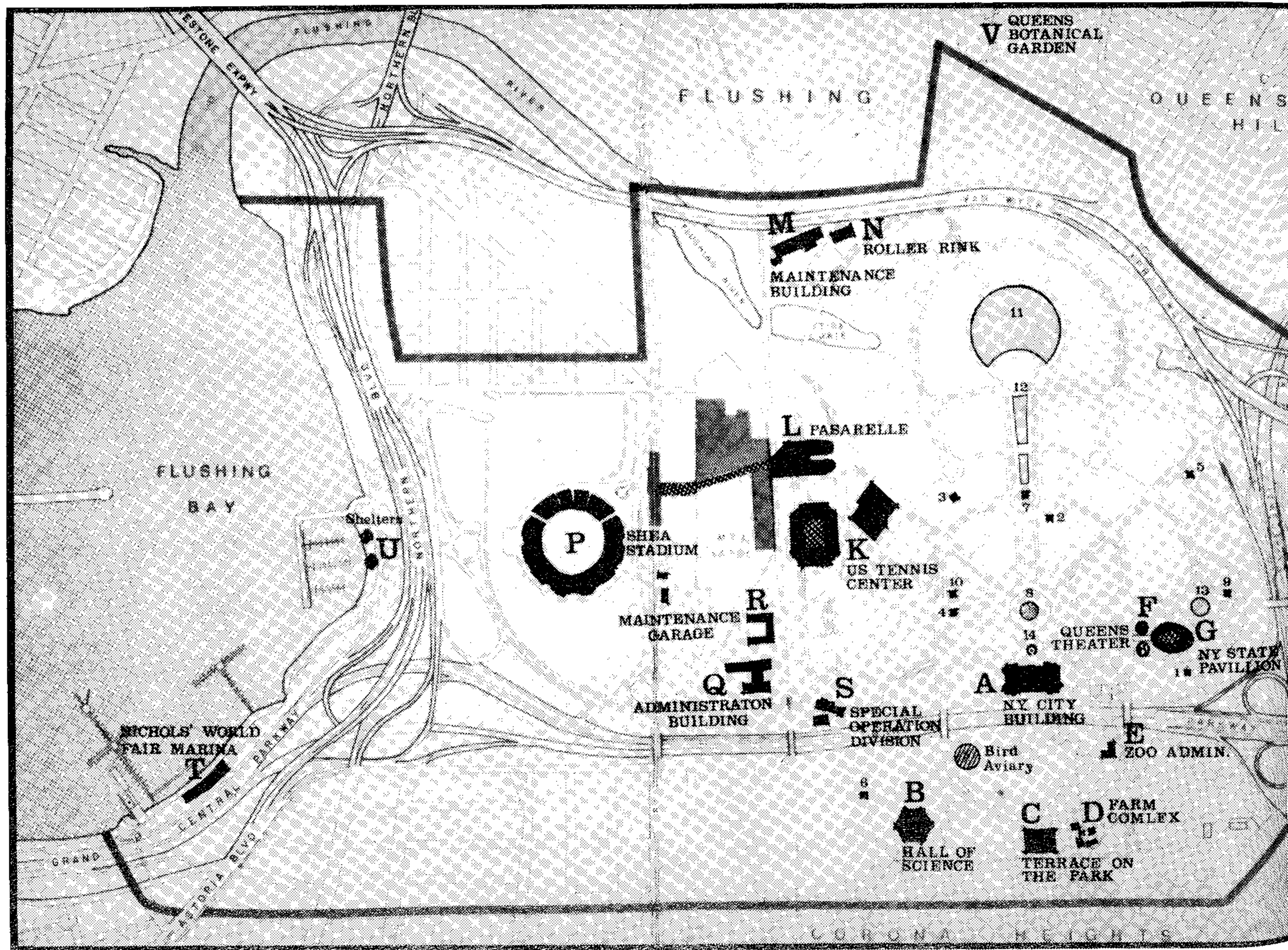
Fishing by the Aquacade on Meadow Lake.

- Certain sections of the park should not be utilized at all for any major uses. We are referring particularly to the Willow Lake section of the park. This area has developed into a natural wildlife refuge which must not be spoiled. In fact, the fair should make the environmental improvements that are needed to preserve this unique urban wetland, as well as cleaning up the polluted Flushing Bay and River. One fair improvement should be the creation of a permanent environmental and ecology center for Willow Lake which would teach generations of City residents the fragile relationship between man and his environment on earth.

- We propose that no parking lots be constructed within the fairgrounds as was done in 1964. We believe that along with the completion of Shea Stadium into a domed-circular arena, new parking levels should be constructed around the stadium, and over the railroad grounds across Roosevelt Avenue. The space is there for one, centrally located parking area where all arriving autos will park. This will also provide one central point of access for both private automobiles and the users of mass transit facilities. The increased parking facilities would serve the Fair and the expanded stadium and other sports facilities after the Fair.

- The World's Fair Corporation proposes the creation of a permanent development corporation for the post-park. This organization, modeled after local neighborhood development corporations, would consist of a board of directors including the heads of existing park cultural and recreational institutions, the chairpersons of the local community boards, representatives of the Parks Department maintenance, administration and planning divisions, the Borough President's Office and local civic and business leaders. This group would oversee the maintenance and development of the park, providing a coherent administration of this great resource. This group would receive an initial grant from the Fair's projected \$8 million earnings, and could seek future grants from both public and private sources for the maintenance and development of the park.

It is our opinion that the incredible history of Flushing Meadows must not be lost to indifference and decay. The third World's Fair can complete the genesis of this site from ashes to glory, creating at last, a usable open green space in the very center of New York City worthy of the park's unique legacy.



STATUES & FOUNTAINS

- 1st Time Capsules
- 2nd Whispering Column of Jerash
- 3rd George Washington
- 4th Free Form
- 5th Lithuanian Wayside Shrine
- 6th Forms In Transit
- 7th The Rocket Thrower
- 8th Unisphere Fountain & Pool
- 9th Exedra Vatican Pavilion
- 10th Freedom of the Human Spirit
- 11th Fountain of the Planets
- 12th Constitution Mall Pools
- 13th Astral Fountain
- 14th Former Site of Time & Fate Sundial

FIG.

K E W G A R D E N S H I L L

J BOATHOUSE

H
AMPHITHEATER/
SWIMMING
POOL

MEADOW LAKE

WILLOW LAKE

F O R E S T H I L L

STRUCTURES

FLUSHING MEADOWS-CORONA PARK





Crowds at the annual Queens Day Festival, Flushing Meadow-Corona Park, 1980.

The central Fairgrounds at Flushing Meadows in 1989 will be the location designed for the majority of visitors to the Fair. The outer borough sites will offer extra attractions that some of the expected 50 million visitors will want to take in, however we expect that these sites will primarily attract repeat visits from people living within a one hour travelling time from the location. Statistics from previous fairs have shown that the difference between a financially successful fair and one that shows a deficit can be traced to those repeat visits from basically local residents. By offering a number of different attractions in various locations we believe area residents will be given the chance to visit very different events, one of which will be near where they live.

However, the central Fairgrounds will be expected to be the single site visited by eighty percent of the tourists coming to the fair. The Fairgrounds will provide a historical sense of the fair's continuity with the two previous expositions as well as provide the grounds for the many international exhibits and entertainments and the theme oriented displays. The other sites will be connected to the Fairgrounds via a communications link-up where the sites can inter-relate with their programs and activities.

The Fairgrounds should be the center of a great mandala, as well as the geographical center of the city. Obviously no one lives at the fair—they sojourn there for a day or two. What is crucial is what they bring out of the fair with them back to the millions of places in which they dwell. Experiences should be powerful enough to dislodge attitudes of boredom, escapism, artificial highs, dependence on slaving appliances or technologies in favor of a dependence on the energy sources that give us life itself: the internal human divisions — Body, Heart, Soul and Mind, and the external divisions — Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

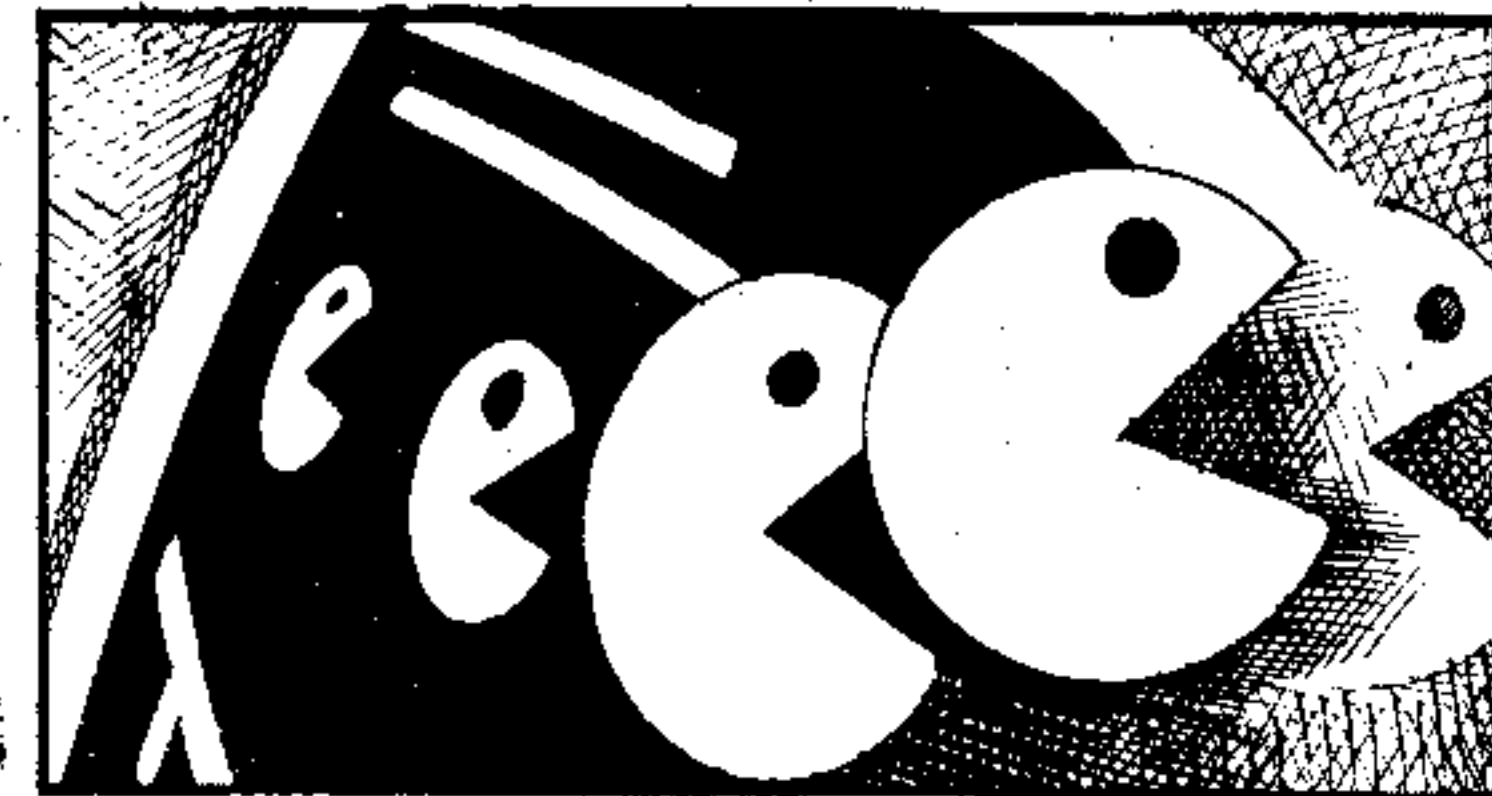
Getting back to these basic elementals will allow the various exhibitors to touch upon the inter-dependency of these forces and the need for a proper communication between and among them.

In New York City, and in much of the world today, is a sense of individual impotence, which leads to the displacement responses of cynicism, outright violence between persons, terrorism, cultic formations, me-worship, a carpe diem use of resources, vandalism at various levels, gangs (of 4 or any number), a distrust of all institutions and communities, spiritual nomadism, cancer, family breakdowns and attendant social problems. And they are all figures of the "four horsemen of the Apocalypse": political tyranny, war, famine, ecological disruption, and rampant disease.

The fair must address these realities if it is to move the visitor beyond them. Otherwise, any attempt at such moving will be perceived as glib and therefore just as impotent as the visitor probably feels in and of himself or herself.

A fair must communicate to the visitor a consciousness of their own place in the global energy realities of limits and progressive depletion. Yet there is no point in eliciting the responses of either guilt or fear. Those are paralyzing forces, and a fair must work to oppose paralysis in every form.

Imagination, excitement, surprise, and good old-fashioned discovery are important ingredients in a memorable and enjoyable experience. The fair should provide individuals game-like opportunities for creative input to take people out of the passive stance and put them — experientially and conceptually — into an active stance wherein they discover the joy of new horizons and responsibilities.



Recently, the enormous appeal of Video Games has marked the first movement of the TV medium away from the "cool", passive nature that McLuhan identified so clearly in **Understanding Media**. With video games, the medium warms up considerably. Still, as with PAC-MAN, which even at its greatest is simply a mechanical repetition of moves within a repetitive program, video games present more the illusion of a hot medium to the novice or uninitiated than to the expert or addict, for whom they, ironically, become again more of a passive-aggressive modality.

Perhaps the fair's use of this kind of fun-involvement through the latest telecommunications technologies can open new and remarkable experiences for fairgoers.

There should be nothing shoddy at this fair. It should present state-of-the-art level exhibits and it should seek to present reasonable demonstrations of inventions and systems coming into use in the '90's and post-2000 period. It should also take pains to accurately portray the range of existing theoretical work (e.g., cancer research), admit the obstacles, and present the alternatives in every theme area.

The persons leaving the fair should leave with a new sense of available tools, with a new understanding of the potentials as well as the existing state-of-the-arts, and **most especially** with a new sense of their own place in systems of admitted complexity but, nevertheless, systems which depend on human work, resourcefulness, spirit and ingenuity.

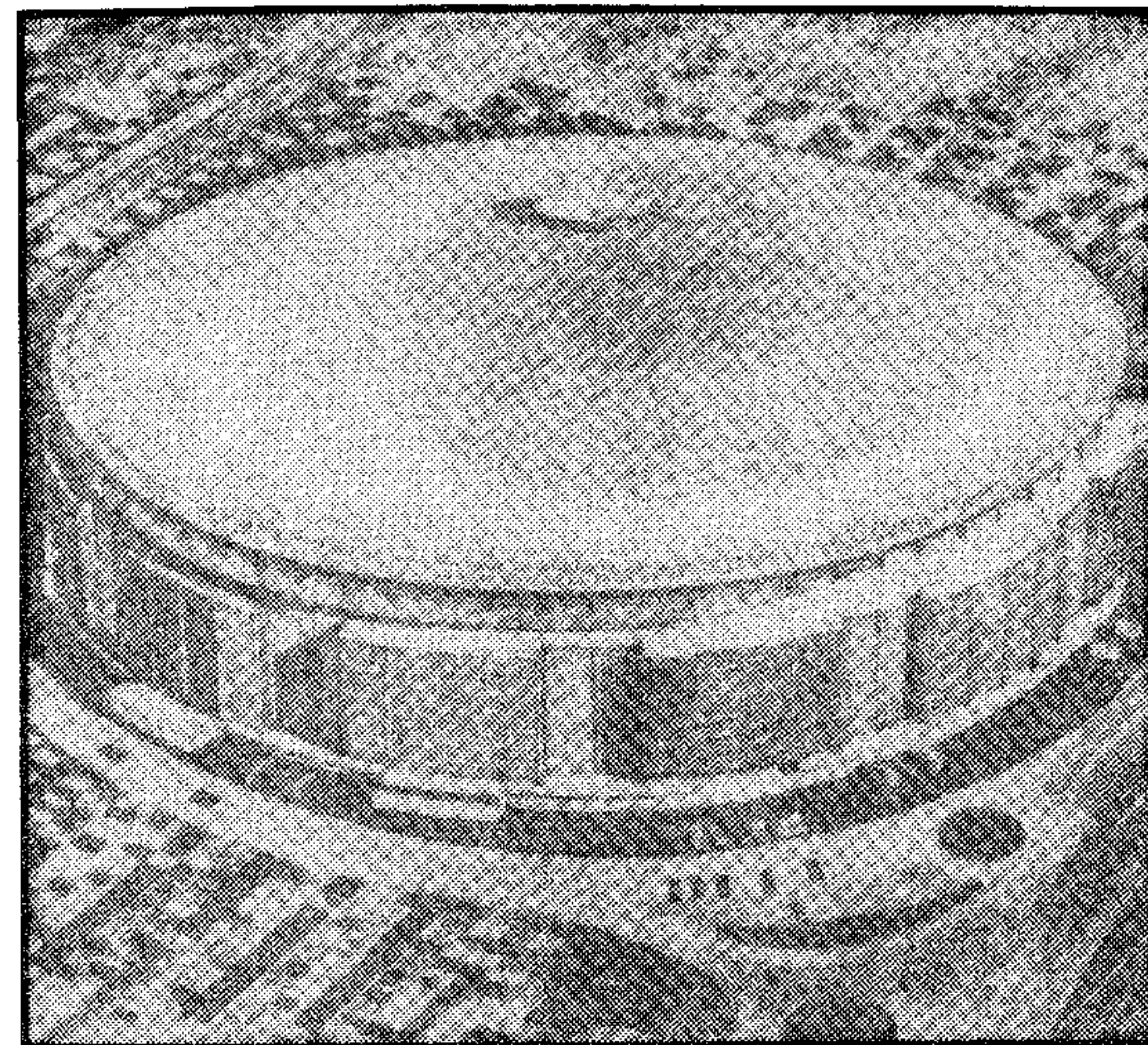
From this improved communication between peoples of the world will come a better understanding of each other, at least a leaning toward peace, because we are bound by an inexorable law of humanity that implies with knowledge comes love, with love comes serenity, with serenity comes the passing of arms and armies.

The Gateway

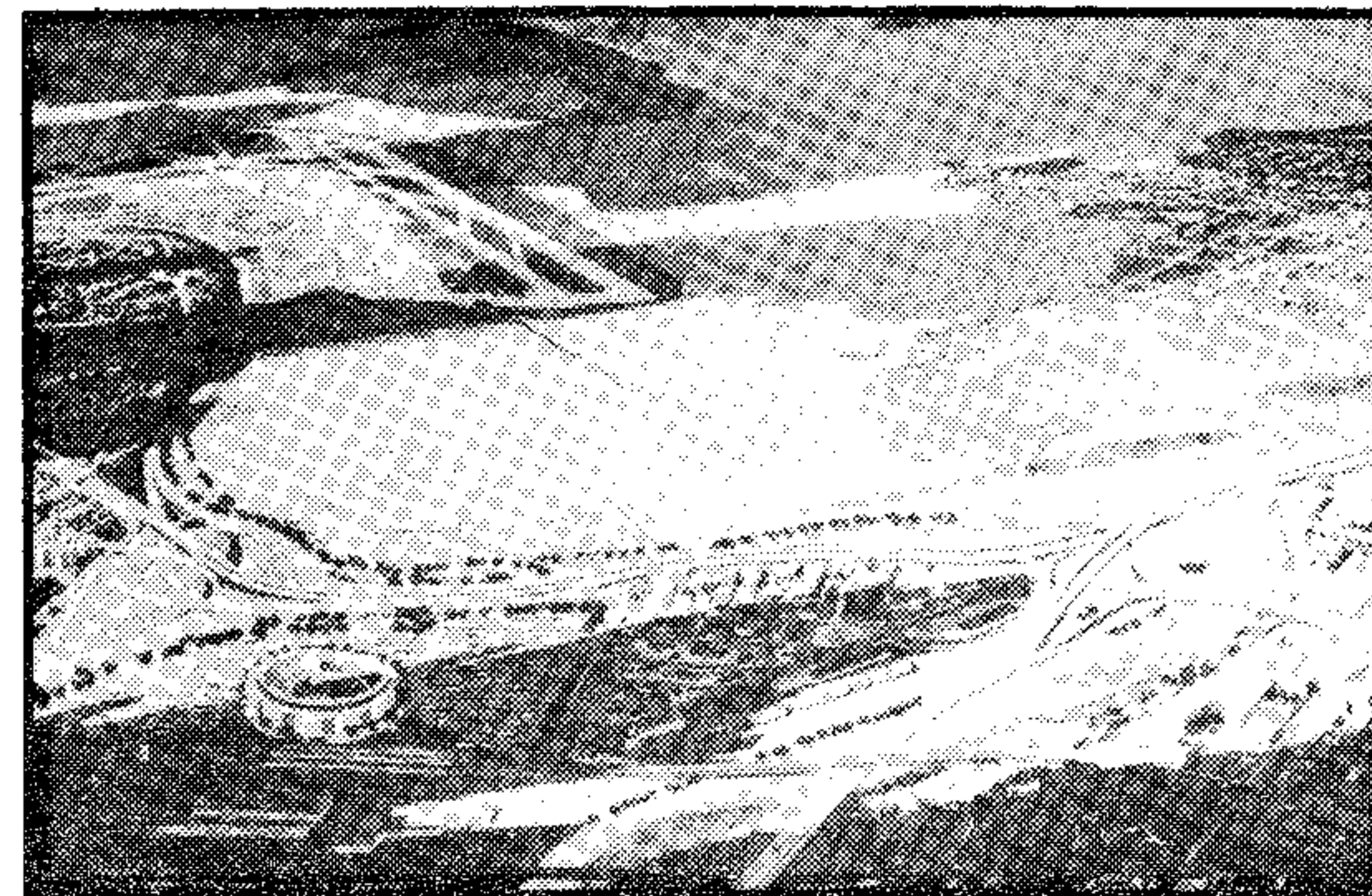
The Fairgrounds should be entered via the overpass that connects the Fairgrounds with Shea Stadium. The Fair Corporation believes that the State should act upon the proposal of State Assemblyman Ivan Lafayette and the study by John Hanley Albany Associates, that Shea Stadium be domed and completed as a full circular arena seating approximately 80,000 as it was originally designed to accommodate. This would provide a first-class stadium which would allow New York to regain its status as a major sports capital. (It would also provide a stadium which could host a possible future Olympics games, as was proposed in 1976 for the '84 years). This stadium renovation could be "married" to the fair's post-fair development as a major recreational complex.

We propose that in expanding the stadium, additional parking be constructed over the present fields and across Roosevelt Avenue, thus accommodating all of the vehicular traffic to the fair. With visitors arriving at this central entrance by car, Number 7 IRT Flushing subway, Long Island Railroad, by bus and by boat at the adjacent Flushing Bay Marina, we have the opportunity to orient all arriving attendees to the central Fair theme on arrival.

Visitors could choose two ways of entering the actual grounds: by foot at the existing entrance ramp or by boarding a "people-mover"



Proposed dome to enclose Shea Stadium.



Shea Stadium, Marina area on Flushing Bay

which would take the visitors to the fair's Theme Structure which we propose be erected as a permanent facility in the section near the Fountain of the Planets and the College Point Boulevard pedestrian entrance across from the Queens Botanical Gardens. This structure would be the Gateway to the Fair where visitors would ride the people-mover through a multi-media experience which would dramatize in a startling and inspiring way the fair's central message of the "New Revolution."

The presentation to be called "Who Speaks for Earth?" will address the most critical question facing every inhabitant of the planet in our nuclear age. Astronomer Carl Sagan in his recent television series **Cosmos** pondered the irony that just as humanity has taken its first steps in breaking from the shackle of Earth and voyaging to the planets, the nations of the world, hypnotized by mutual mistrust, and rarely concerned for the species of the planet, prepare for death. Sagan stated:

"There are worlds on which life has never arisen. There are worlds that have been charred and ruined by cosmic catastrophes. We are fortunate: we are alive; we are powerful; the welfare of our civilization and our species is in our hands. If we do not speak for Earth, who will? If we are not committed to our own survival, who will be? What account would we give of our stewardship of the planet Earth? We have heard the rationales offered by the nuclear superpowers. We know who speaks for the nations. But who speaks for the human species? Who speaks for Earth?"

The theme exhibit will attempt to show that there is an answer to this ultimate question of communications. As Sagan concludes: "we are the local embodiment of a Cosmos grown to self-awareness. We have begun to contemplate our origins: starstuff pondering the stars; organized assemblages of billions of atoms considering the evolution of atoms; tracing the long journey by which, here at least, consciousness arose. Our loyalties are to the species and the planet. **We** speak for Earth. Our obligation to survive is owed not just to ourselves but also to that Cosmos, ancient and vast, from which we spring."

From this experience visitors will emerge above the fairgrounds, facing the Fountain of the Planets, down the Main Mall towards the Unisphere, symbol of the 1964 Fair's theme "Peace Through Understanding." Spread out before the visitor will be the fairgrounds, an active, festive and exciting assemblage of nations and

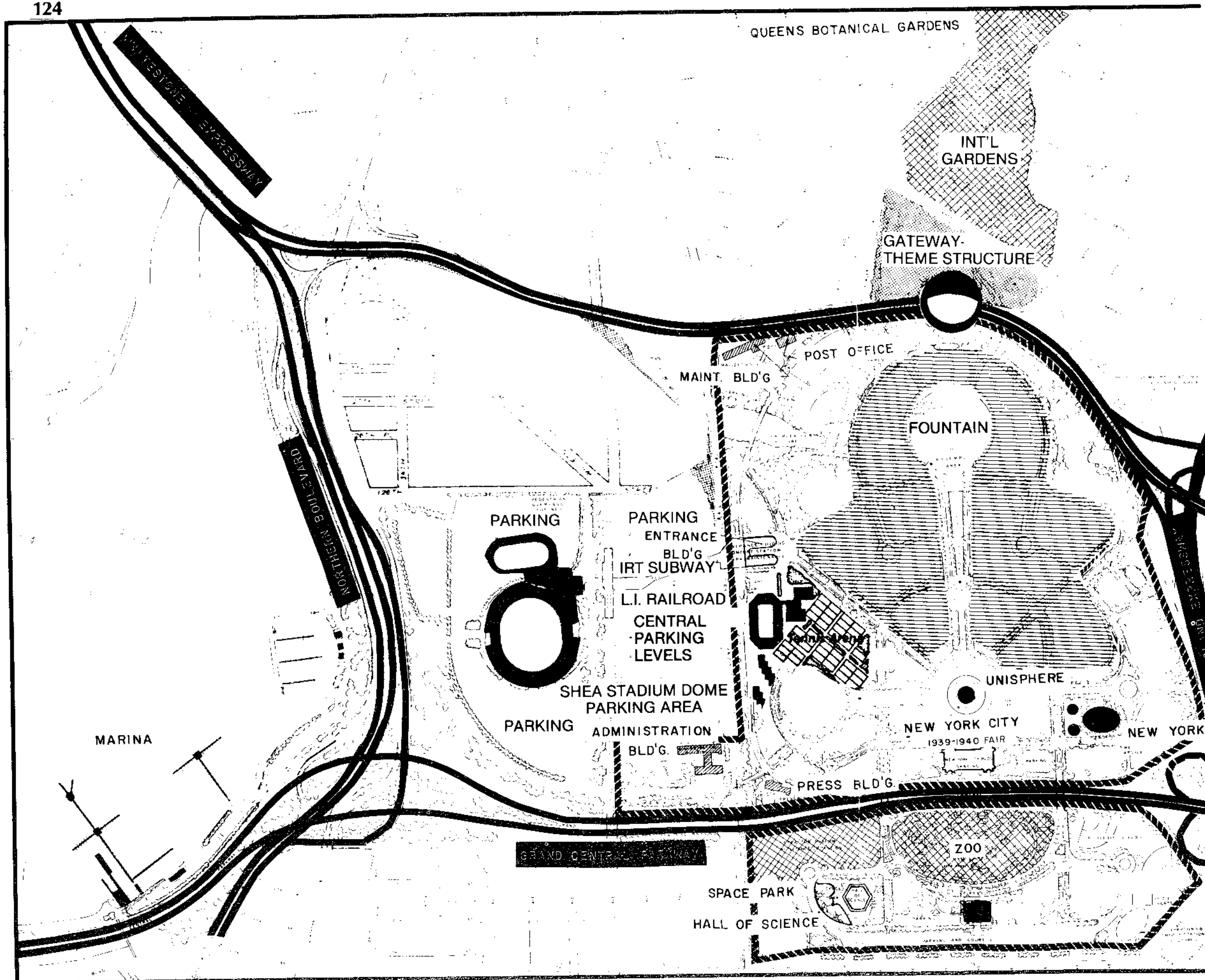
technologies. Like the medieval fairs of old it should speak directly to and with the fairgoer, providing an unforgettable historical experience in their lives. The viewer exiting from the Theme Center will also view the skyline of New York and the city beyond, out where in real neighborhoods some of the lessons being taught at the fair are being put into actual practice. The Theme Center therefore should stand as the Gateway both to the fair itself and to the vision of the future which the fair looks towards.



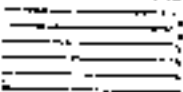
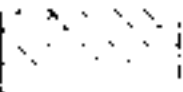

The Theme Structure should be of striking and imaginative design, and preferably be constructed as a permanent facility for the post-fair park. Placing the structure at our proposed site, and permitting it to "bridge" the Van Wyck Expressway, the facility would complete the central axis-plan of the park begun in 1939, providing a visual conclusion to the park's Main Mall (Unisphere on the West end, Theme Structure on the East). The structure would occupy the grounds of the exact location where President Roosevelt opened the 1939 Fair and where the first television broadcast originated. It also provides a much-needed link to the downtown Flushing community which is presently cut off from the park at this point. The Queens Botanical Gardens, which its entrance on Main Street and its accessibility to bus riders and pedestrians, would connect directly to the Fair-Park entrance on College Point Boulevard.

The Theme building would be connected to the subway and parking ramp at Roosevelt Avenue by the people-mover internal transit system which would traverse the perimeter of the grounds. This much needed internal transit link could remain as a permanent park feature to be operated by a private concessionaire through the proposed park development corporation.

Post-fair uses for the Theme structure could be for recreational or cultural activities or as an on-going communications center (although we tend to believe that a permanent communications center might be more conducive to one of the other borough sites, rather than to a city park.)

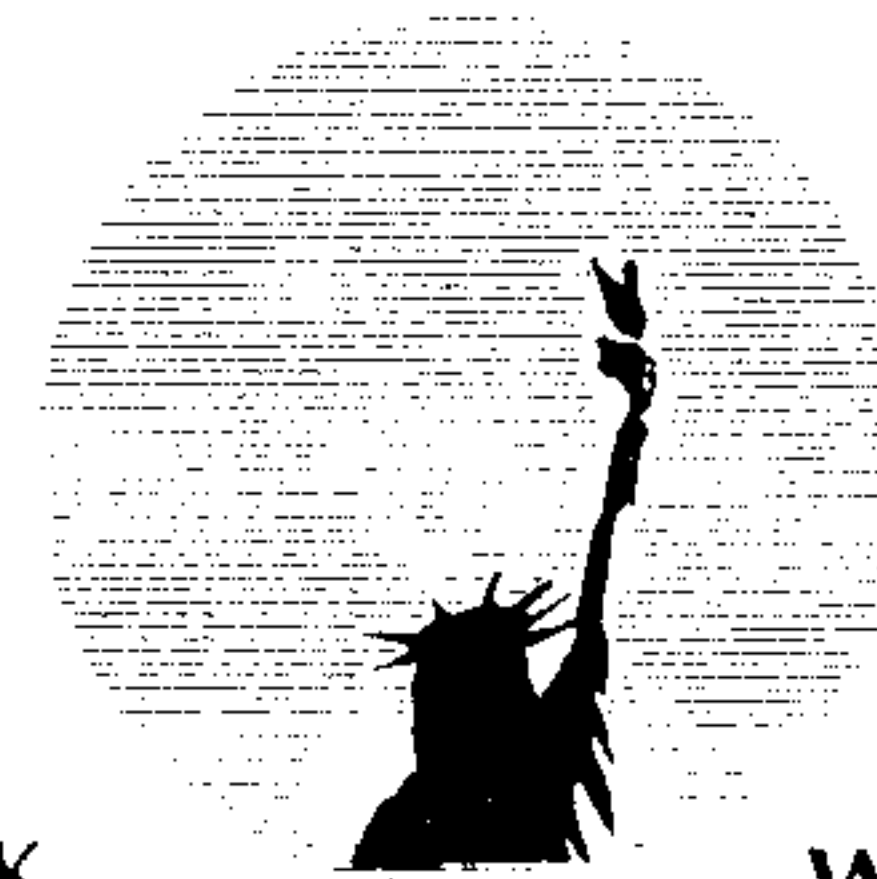
Outward from the focal exhibit at the theme structure will be the various zones of the fairgrounds in which both the international exhibits and the private exhibits of industrial, service and technological enterprises will be located. Over these commercial exhibits the administrator of the Fair should exercise sufficient control to insure the



-  Permanent Structures
-  People-Mover route around Fairgrounds
-  Central Exposition Area (to be redesigned to accommodate Post-Fair Park)
-  Botanical Gardens, Zoo & Hall of Science
-  Arterial Highways

Communications:

The New Revolution



NEW YORK

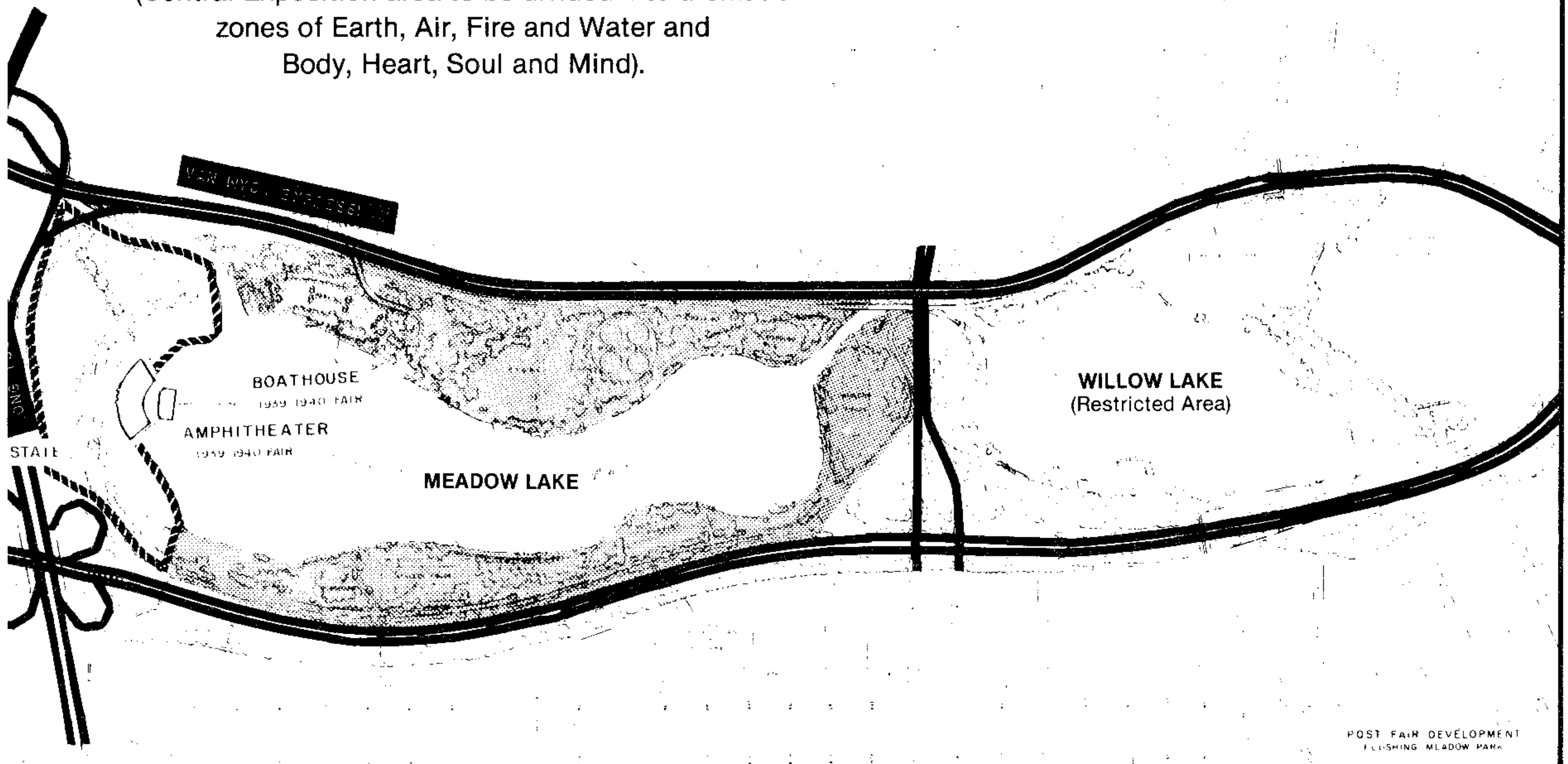
WORLD'S FAIR

The United States Constitution and International Communications Exposition

1989

The Fairgrounds: Flushing Meadows

(Central Exposition area to be divided into thematic zones of Earth, Air, Fire and Water and Body, Heart, Soul and Mind).



POST FAIR DEVELOPMENT
FLUSHING MEADOW PARK



Tennis Center, Shea Stadium, subway and parking complex at Flushing Meadow.

unity and harmony of the major plan, but should allow sufficient freedom to encourage originality and enterprise. To exhibitors will be suggested the desirability of demonstrating the actual and potential contributions to society of their particular activity. Personal involvement and direct communication with the individual fairgoer will be encouraged — again, placing the participant in an active role at the fair whenever possible.

The international pavilions should stress the communications theme as a realistic symbol of national and multi-national interrelationships — how their respective languages, music, food, art and industries play a role in this endeavor.

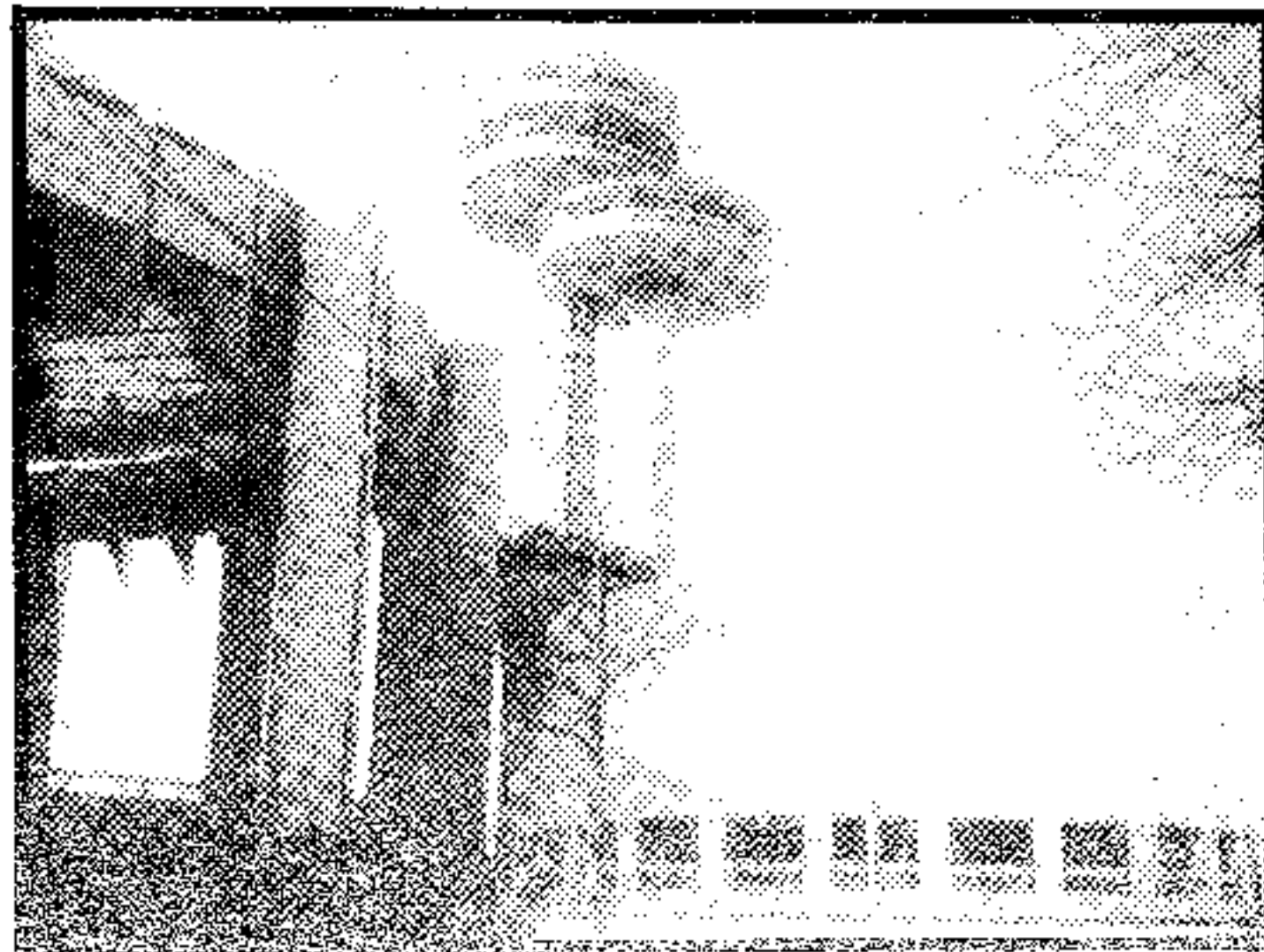
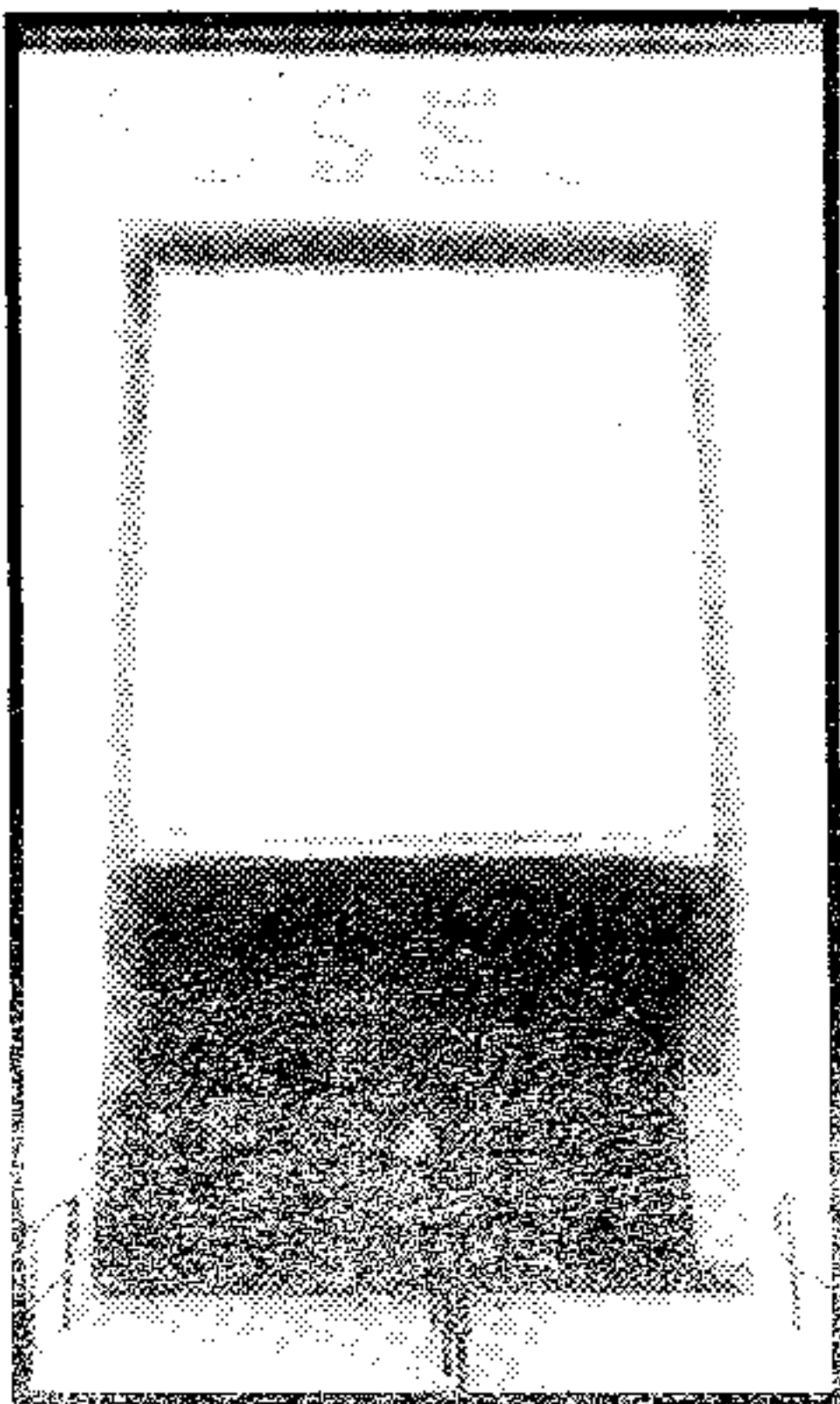
Sports Complex

The Shea Stadium-U.S.T.A. Tennis Center complex could be the site for various athletic and cultural events requiring a large capacity audience. Spectacular weekly international events featuring international stars of sports, the arts and entertainment can perform here, with subsequent telecasting to a world-wide audience. (A regular "Live from the World's Fair" program, for instance.) Specific international athletic competitions (The World's Fair Games) could be

staged during the fair's six-month run that would be held when the Mets and Jets are not at home, and of course, the two week U.S. Tennis Open period in August-September. The excitement which that annual event attracts will be heightened by its location at the World's Fairgrounds.

N.Y. City Building

The Queens Museum should expand its galleries to the south wing of the New York City Building where the ice-skating rink is now located. This expansion would permit this growing institution to fully realize its growing and important role in the cultural life of the city. As the home of the giant "Panorama of New York," a scale model of the entire city, the museum should present a dramatic multi-media light and sound presentation in the spaces above and around the Panorama area which would utilize the lighting system on the model combined with films, slides and other techniques for a stirring and informative overview of this "World City". In a few minutes the visitor could take in the city's topography, size,



Entrance to Queens Museum (left). Theatre in the Park, N.Y. State Pavilion (above).

neighborhoods, history, facilities, infrastructure and an appreciation of the magnitude of the city of New York. This "Urbanarium" should be the city's official participation in the fair and it could remain as a permanent tourist attraction at the museum.

The museum itself as part of its World's Fair exhibition program could mount a special exhibition such as a centennial retrospective on the impact of the incredible career of New York's Master Builder Robert Moses on the social and geographic development of New York City. This exhibit could cover an enormous range of urban history, and through an examination of the positive and negative aspects of city planning, the exhibit could be a real-life "Futurama" of the possible ways in which life in the future New York and other cities can be improved. It could also feature special retrospectives on both the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs, of which Robert Moses was the guiding force. As in the successful "Dawn of a New Day" exhibit which the museum presented in 1980, this could provide a link to the site's past as well as an enjoyable look back at the eras which those fairs represented. A permanent archive on the history of World's Fairs could be established as a result of this exhibition.

New York State Building

The New York State Building should be refurbished with its observation towers restored into operation and this should contain the official exhibits of the State of New York. The beautiful terrazzo-inlaid map of the state should be cleaned up and it can be the centerpiece for 1989 "I Love New York Festival," whereby the giant semi-outdoor rotunda is used for presentations by both art and musical

programs from the various communities and counties of the State. The indoor Theatre-in-the-Park should be utilized for a six-month salute to Broadway and the New York Theatre and Film Industries, presenting highlights of the best in New York night life and motion picture production. The Astoria Motion Picture and Production Centre could participate in this attraction.



Meadow Lake as seen from Forest Hills
Aquacade

The Meadow Lake Amphitheatre should also be refurbished as a permanent reminder of the art-deco days when it was the hit of the 1939 fairs as Billy Rose' Aquacade. With its beautiful view of the lake, it should be the centerpiece for nightly concerts and fountain shows. (The Aquacade might be considered as the location for a post-fair swimming pool-ice and roller rink facility.)

The Lake Area

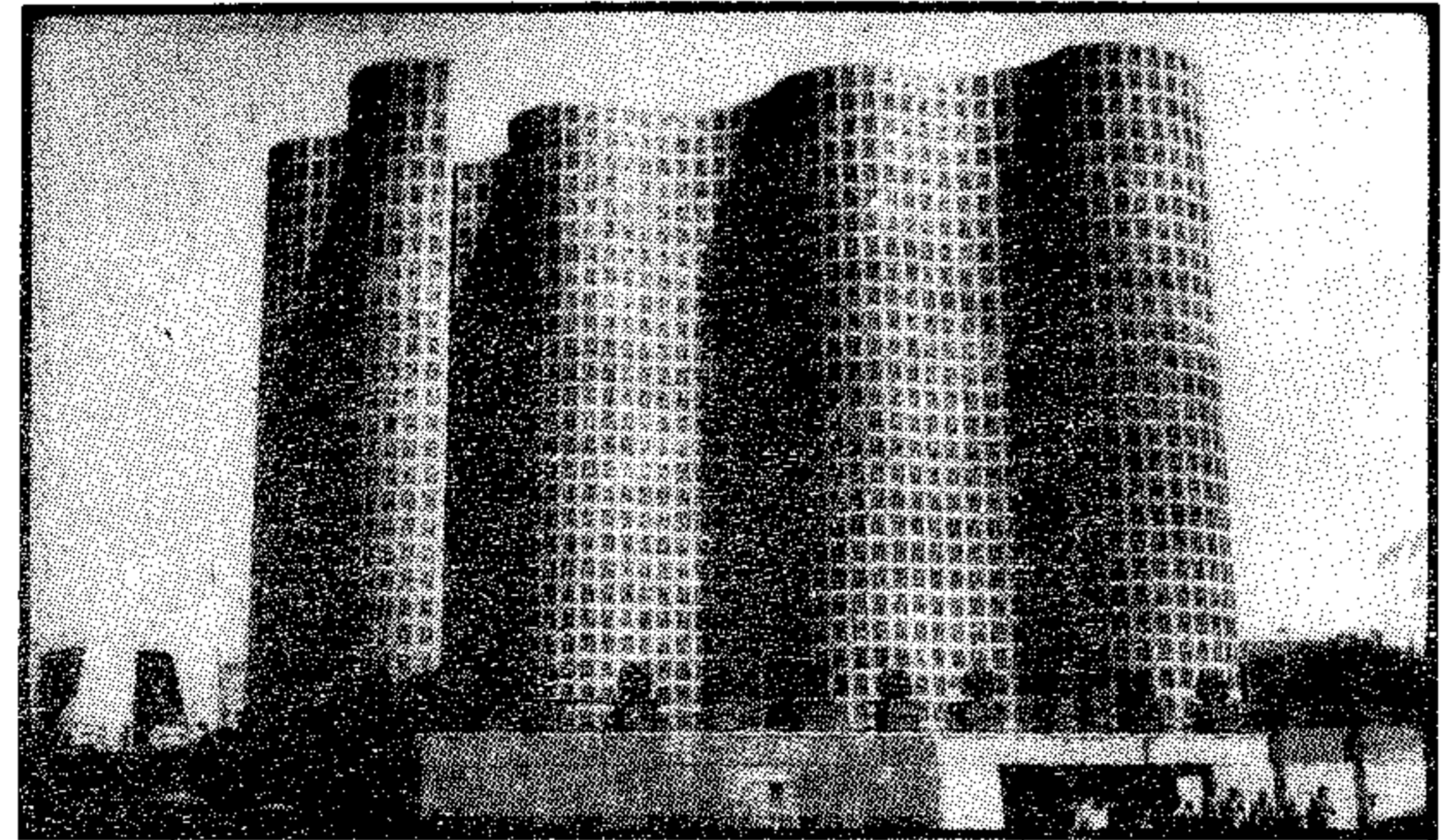
The Fair Corporation believes that the Meadow Lake area should not be used for other amusement rides or for parking as was done in 1939 and 1964 respectively. We believe that with the exception of the Aquacade and the Boat House restaurant, this section can be a pleasant park-like area for fair visitors to get a respite from the excitement of the rest of the grounds. New plantings of willow trees and flowers along the lake, with quiet boats offering rides along the fountains on the lake will create a pleasing environment. The proposed ecology center might be located at the southern end of this area before the entrance to Willow Lake which should be restricted.

Hall of Science & Queens Zoo

We propose that the lower portion of the Fairgrounds across the Grand Central Parkway and extending into Corona via 111th Street become an area devoted to Nature, Science and Children, with the theme of how all three of these groups should communicate for the future of life on earth. The existing Zoo and Children's Farm, which is soon to be transferred to the excellent management of the New York Zoological Society which runs the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium, can be the focal point for this, a model for making people "live in other bodies." The interrelationship with Science can be linked through the existing New York Hall of Science, next door to the zoo, designed by Wallace K. Harrison for the 1964 fair and also currently undergoing renovation. This growing institution which has attracted thousands of New York school children daily can expand its exhibit space on land which has been set aside for this facility to become "The Lincoln Center of Science." The Hall of Science might have a special exhibition on the 200 years of industrial growth to the new era of high technology, with an emphasis on its ecological and social impacts. The cathedral-like interior of the main structure could be used for an inspirational introduction to the other exhibits. A Space Center can be located adjacent to the Space Park which displays giant replicas of the first U.S. rockets and space vehicles. The Space Center could focus on our place in the eternity of the Universe.

The Playground

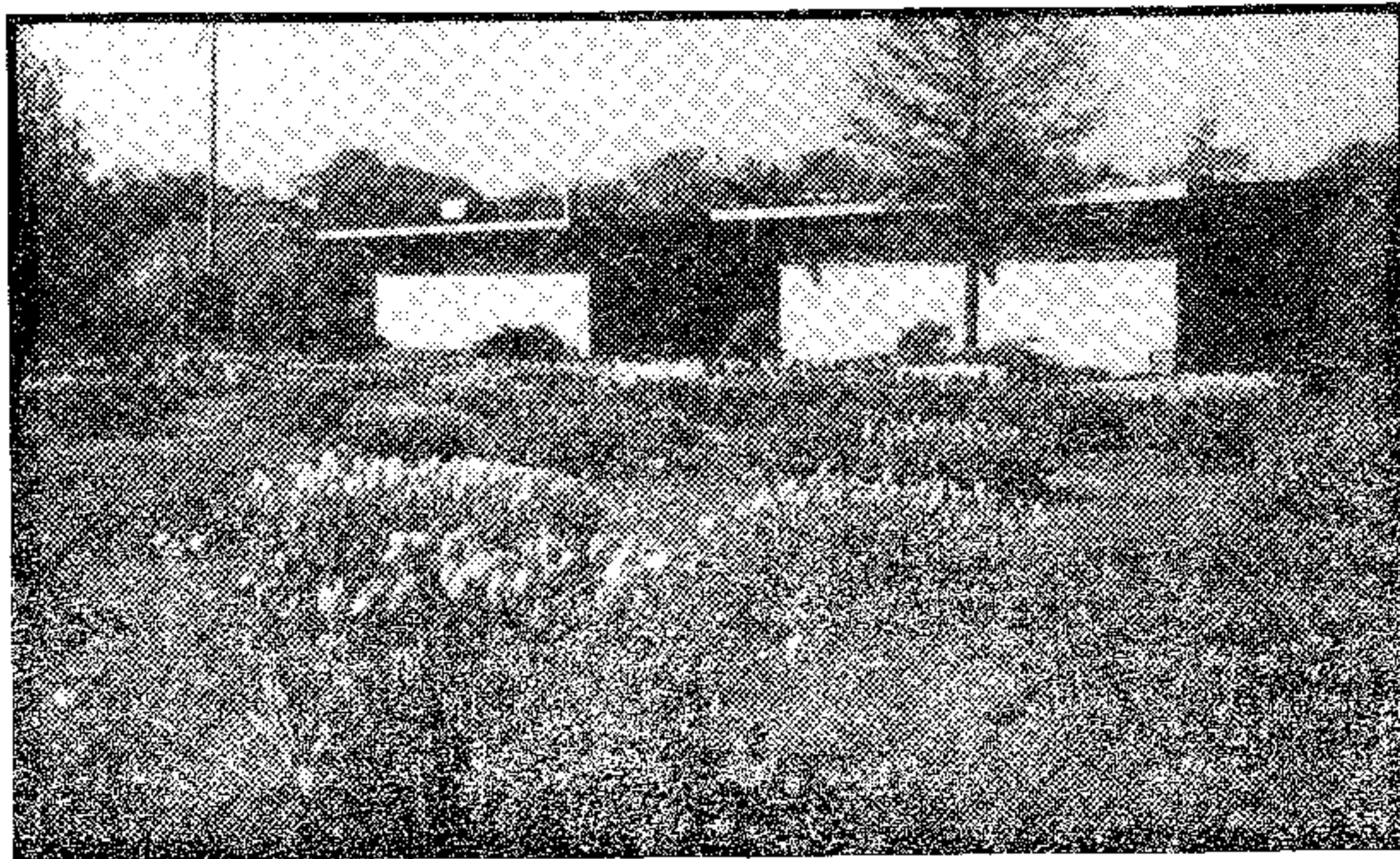
Adjacent to the Zoo is the innovative "Playground for all Children" which is presently under construction. This facility will provide both handicapped and non-handicapped kids a special and unique environment in which to play. The design of the playground was a result of a special competition among architects and designers. This Playground could be utilized and expanded at the Fair, providing children with their own special experience at the Fair. Special exhibitions oriented to "Youth, the Future" as well as exhibits on the dynamism and possibilities for both Senior Citizens and the Handicapped should be presented here. This section of the fair, utilizing and expanding upon the existing facilities, can thus provide a zone that will provide the fair and the post-fair park with important themes that are often overlooked at events such as this.



New York Hall of Science

Queens Botanical Gardens

At the easternmost boundary of the park is the Queens Botanical Gardens, an institution which was born as the "Gardens on Parade" exhibit of horticulturists at the 1939 fair and which has grown to become an important addition to the borough's quality-of-life. The central arboretum of the gardens is still undeveloped and we propose that this large area become the site of an "International Floral Festival," to be held in conjunction with the fair. Steps are already being taken that would create such an attraction. The various oriental ethnic groups which have recently settled in the town of Flushing are joining together with the Gardens to create a special "Gardens of Asia" where the native trees, shrubs, flowers and walkways of Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, India, etc. will be established. Roland Wade, director of the Botanical Gardens believes that each region of the world whose participants are in the fair, should contribute a section to the International Gardens — a colorful, living symbol of international harmony. These gardens would also be a fitting reminder of Flushing's legacy as the "birthplace of Horticulture in America," whose original nurseries were visited 200 years before in 1789 by President George Washington.



Queens Botanical Gardens

A recreation of one of those early Flushing nurseries could be created in this area, using a restored colonial-era house which was in danger of demolition and moved to the site as the centerpiece. This proposal for an International Gardens could be in the nature of the highly successful "Floraliese", which was held on the old Expo '67 grounds in 1980 in Montreal. Just as the Fairgrounds various exhibits are symbols of other existing attractions throughout the city, this international floral exposition could have other components at the Cloisters, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and the beautiful New York Zoological & Botanical Gardens in the Bronx. At these different sites, highly sophisticated gardens would review the flowers of the world and all throughout the city people would be encouraged to take their own neighborhoods as sites for the "Floraliese." All over the city flowers will be blooming to celebrate the World's Fair and the City of New York.

Meanwhile the International Gardens would express the fair's elemental theme of Earth, and it would be the entranceway to the Theme Structure and the Fair beyond.

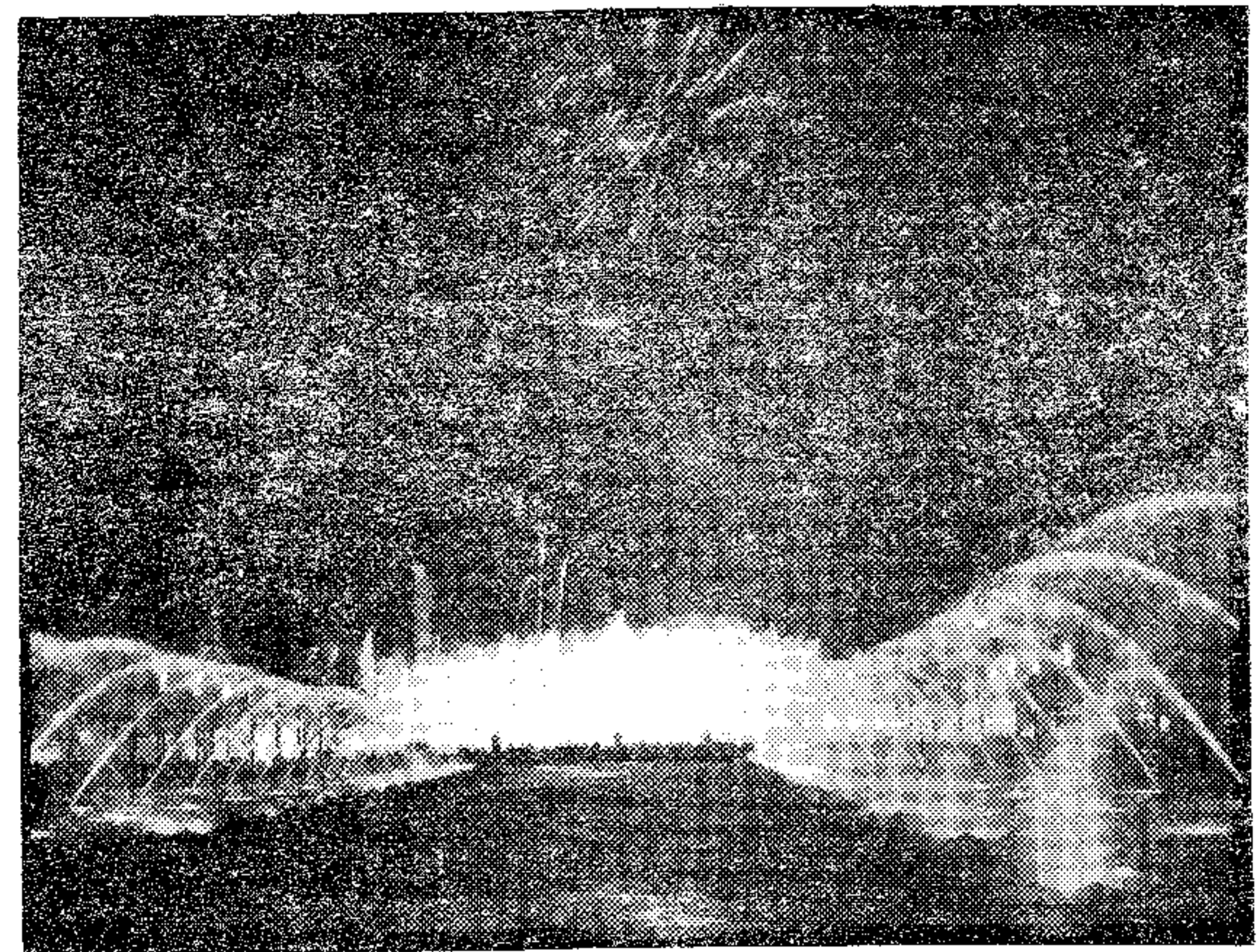
Night Spectacle

A day at the fairgrounds should end with a central spectacular event at which the focus of the fairgoer's experiences can be directed and providing a memorable conclusion to the day. We propose that this nightly event be an elaborate sound and light experience held in the outdoors around the central pool (Fountain of

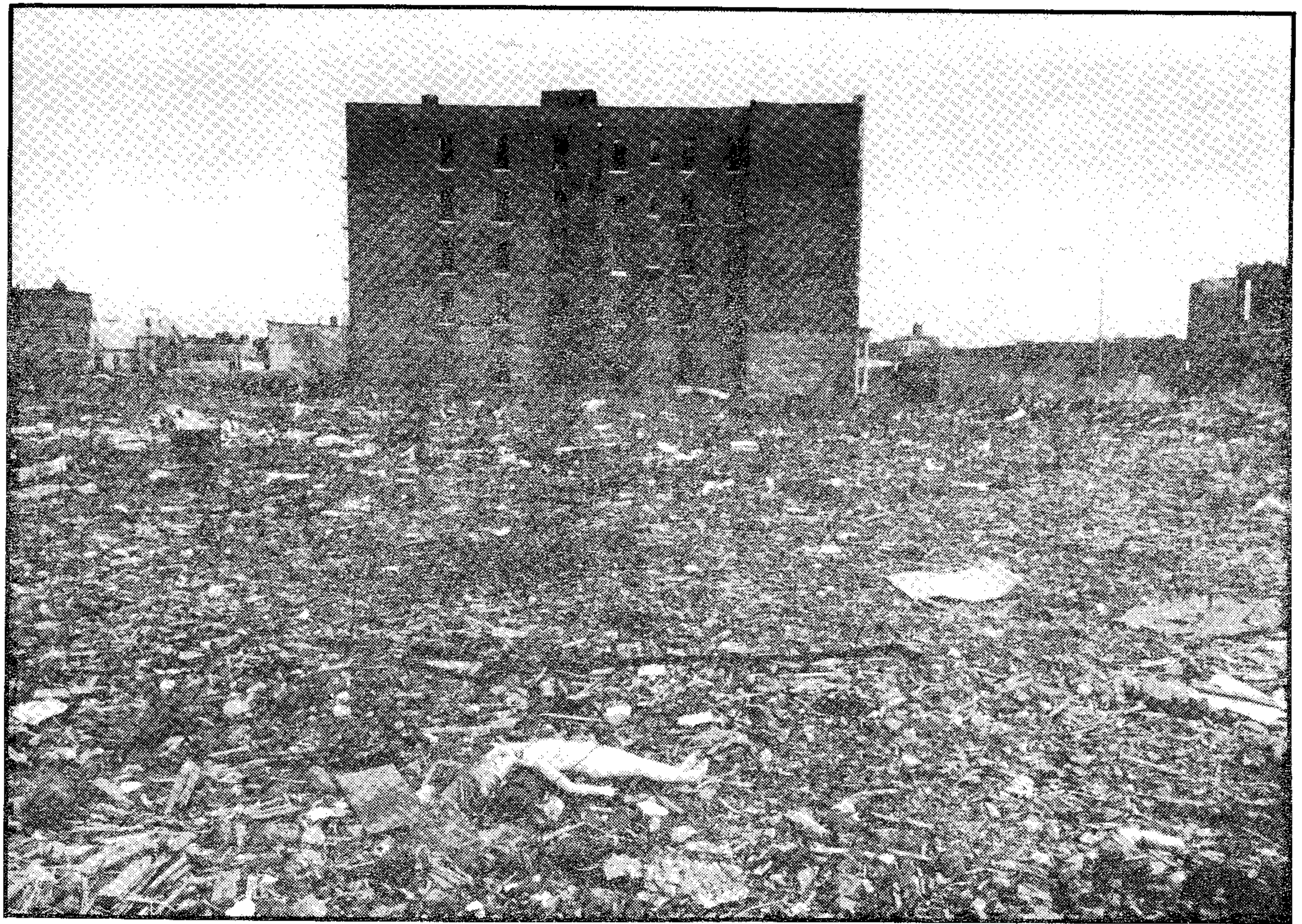
the Planets) facing the Theme Structure. Just as the impressive nightly fountain and firework shows were held in 1939 and 1964, this multi-media event would combine all of the latest and most sophisticated uses of music and sound effects, optical, laser and holographic techniques, video projections, light, water, fire and fireworks, all synchronized in theme-oriented productions that will leave fairgoers breathless.

These are some of the possibilities for the central Fairgrounds at Flushing Meadows. It is our belief that this kind of fair can leave a lasting impression upon each participant and visitor and upon history itself. It can restore and complete the legacy and potential of the park and in the outer-borough sites, leave a permanent legacy of neighborhood improvements.

The next part of the report will outline the four other fair sites.



Fountain of the Planets, 1964



South Bronx, 1981 (Photo by Mel Rosenthal)

The Proving Grounds: The Bronx

The South Bronx. No World's Fair has ever taken place there, but the whole world knows it is there. Visitors to New York go on conducted tours of the area. Presidents and politicians, and even the Pope, have in recent years set foot there. It has been immortalized in movies such as "Fort Apache: The Bronx" and on numerous television programs. The Third World knows about the South Bronx. So does the Communist world — it is good grist for their propaganda mills.

If there is a site in New York City that cries out for help, it is the South Bronx. It is an area with a vigorous past, carved by those with energy, vision, committed to high ideals, and the taste for challenge. In 1639, Jonas Bronck became the first European settler in the Bronx (at today's 132nd Street and Lincoln Avenue), pioneering the area for future settlement and development. The area grew over the years into a major industrial center, as well as the home of Yankee Stadium, stimulating the growth of sports-related commerce and giving the Bronx a "winning image."

But over the years, the community became the casualty of the wrong kind of urban planning, the decline in certain areas of industrial growth and a flight from the cities. As a World Series game was beamed to the nation from Yankee Stadium in the late '70's, the camera's eye rose from the playing field to show the whole world the fires burning in the distance as another piece of the South Bronx went to hell.

Here is an area that represents one of the largest urban cancers in all of the largest American cities. Here is a disaster scene extraordinary that has been visited over the years by many prominent political persons, but always followed by dissolution and no real vision or solution in sight.

Here is a locale that reminds the observer of the utter devastation inflicted on cities all over the world during World War II's massive air attacks. Here is a vision of a world in the wake of a nuclear holocaust.

Here is a social fabric that has been beset with poverty, decay, crime, arson, narcotics, vandalism, broken families, unemployment, human suffering, tax loss, public embarrassment, public over-expense and no hope.

Here is a pathological situation that will need a remedy some day. No magic wand will transform the South Bronx and there are most

likely many pitfalls and seemingly insoluble problems and barriers, but here is a proposal that just might touch off the renewal process for the South Bronx just as the 1939 New York World's Fair idea triggered the massive reclamation of Flushing Meadows from dump to Fair to park.

We propose that the South Bronx be designated the "Proving Grounds" of the 1989 New York World's Fair, commemorating the 350th anniversary of the founding of the area by Jonas Bronck, as well as the anniversaries which the Fair is celebrating. Here is America's opportunity to show the world — free and otherwise — that our Constitution is today very much a meaningful and vital document and our commitment to help the poor and disadvantaged people is also a meaningful and vital responsibility that the American People will not shirk. That we can provide for our own less fortunate people and places will communicate to the world populations that our future is bright and consequently theirs, too. Just as Flushing Meadows land resources were reclaimed for future generations to enjoy, so can the human resources of the South Bronx be given a new opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for future generations.

Giant urban renewal projects are not the answer for every neighborhood's problems. Sometimes the smaller but effective redevelopments such as the one undertaken in Bedford-Stuyvesant, preserve the character and integrity of the community as a whole. But the South Bronx appears to be in desperate need of something dramatic, almost transcendent, in order for the entire populace to believe that there is indeed hope here.

There are, despite the surface signs of despair, many rays of hope in the South Bronx. It has residents who have refused to say die, merchants and businessmen who have refused to leave, and clergy and residents who day after day perform individual miracles in this place of desolation.

There are planners and politicians who know the potential of the South Bronx and who are trying to do something. The area's South Bronx Development Organization, under its president Edward J. Logue has made tremendous inroads in attracting industry to see and consider the tremendous potential this geographically promising location has for the economic benefit of both the city and private industry.

We believe that these pockets of hopeful energy could be reinforced, and infused with a renewed commitment by involving this area in a real-life transformation from ashes to glory.



Ronald Reagan, as Presidential candidate, visits the South Bronx pledging to aid the area. 1980.

Recently, the policy committee of the non-profit committee for Economic Development, comprised of top business and university leaders, called for a new collaboration between municipal governments and private business to help in the recovery of American cities. The report suggested that local governments establish tracks of unused land for business development and expansion, modify zoning and tax laws and devise "creative means of reducing costs of community services." In turn, the private sector can "make community benefit an integral part of operating, purchasing and investment decisions."

In addition, the Reagan administration's "New Federalism" has endorsed the concept of "urban-enterprise zones," proposed by Congressmen Robert Garcia (D-South Bronx) and Jack Kemp (R-Buffalo) which singles out distressed urban areas for special federal tax incentives and regulatory waivers.

President Reagan, in fact, recently granted a \$1 million technical assistance grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development agency to continue the redevelopment of this blighted community.

We all see that the need is there. The President has recognized that need and is continuing to assist the South Bronx Development Organization and the planners of the 1989 New York World's Fair believe that this is a good beginning, but like the early efforts to remove the Corona Dumps, the job needs a central and compelling vision in order to get the real job done.

Although everyone may agree with the statement that "preparations for World's Fair are more desirable than preparations for World Wars," sadly governments' spending for warfare will probably escalate and government spending for domestic and social purposes will be in short supply. Must we tell the people of the South Bronx that the tools to fight domestic wars, including more peacetime jobs, decent housing, better education and a little bit of the happiness that affluent America enjoys (even in a recession) are in the lowest priority order?

We propose that one of the large vacant and desolate city owned sites, preferably near the lines of mass transit that cross through the area and along the Bronx River, be set aside for a joint Federal-Private development to be known as Constitution Centre-South Bronx, U.S.A. This urban-enterprise zone could be a permanent high-technology industrial fair, such as many cities in the world have set aside for conventional industries. Rather than the Federal government setting up another grandiose United States Pavilion or setting aside a specific industrial sector of the Fairgrounds, we propose the creation of a visible, dramatic urban renewal center that will spur on the creation of jobs, housing, educational opportunities and economic revitalization. Perhaps some of that "Disney-technology" could be put to work in practice right in the South Bronx. Few urban areas offer the opportunity to start over, such as exists here.

This center would be jointly developed by private industries, which would use the area as a 'proving grounds' for many of the concepts and ideas demonstrated at the central Fairgrounds. Older industries that are still necessary and vital to society could exist with the newer technologies and this center would open up the potential for industries to locate in the area. Because it would be a permanent facility, the center could be the first stage of a well-planned major improvement. The South Bronx does not need a quick "flash-in-the-pan" moment of glory, divorced from the realities of the rest of the

community, only to disappear and leave the desolation. What we propose is a facility that will provide a dramatic focal point in 1989 and remain as the hub of a new community incorporating residential, commercial, industrial, cultural, educational and public transportation improvements. A permanent Industrial Fair could be one of the key ingredients, providing "yearly source of revenues, jobs and local opportunities."

A key component of this area could be a Community Information Center" which would serve the needs of the city as a whole.

It is incumbent upon us to **involve** the public in experiences which graphically demonstrate that technology — the new information industry, specifically — is not merely an ingenious activation of hardware, but rather a unique and useful tool, system and process through which human problems can be (1) defined with clarity and specificity, (2) analyzed to develop optional plans for study and action and (3) solved to enhance human and social growth.

The first of the modern electronic computers, which launched the new computer industry, was first planned in 1939. Generally, it takes approximately 40 years for modern industries to evolve from infancy to a degree of technical mastery that provides universal service to the population-at-large. (Witness the electrical and auto industries.)

A major intellectual/technological effort, now reaching fulfillment, will transform the current "packaged" computer operation into a "science of information" approach. The computer will become an "information bridge" which will serve society. People will become designers and planners, using the computer for support, for improved communication and sharing. The result will be greater human productivity, stemming from a basic comprehension of social problems and first-hand popular involvement in their solution. This new understanding of the information revolution can be dramatically presented in the South Bronx and remain as a working center long after the Fair is over.

Can this proposal be realized? If the feasibility and impact reports indicate a poor outlook for this proposal then other ideas may sur-



Charlotte Street (Photo by Mel Rosenthal)

face. (One of the functions of an impact report is to specify alternatives.) But if there is a concern that something here must be done, then New York and the U.S. should take the opportunity and focal point offered by the 1989 celebration as a first step. Wouldn't it be far more conducive to America's image for those tour guides to broadcast the fantastic features of a Constitution Center in the South Bronx? New York must remove the cancer (cancers become killing in their later stages) and perform the surgery via the joy and patriotism of the U.S. Constitution Bicentennial — the New York World's Fair for 1989.

Other Bronx facilities which could offer special Fair-related events and attractions would be the famous Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Gardens which already offer some of the most beautiful and innovative exhibits of their kind in the world.

The World Festival: Manhattan

The island of Manhattan contains the richest assembly of international delights to be found in one location than any other similar spot on earth. There is no need for a World's Fair to duplicate those riches — rather the New York '89 festival is the occasion whereby these attractions can be highlighted and coordinated for an April to October "World Festival" in which existing institutions can schedule a six month calendar of special events which will offer tourists, city residents and television viewers around the globe a taste of the best the world has to offer. We specifically propose four special fair programs:

(1) **The International Cultural Festival** — The arts speak a language all their own — they communicate emotions, thoughts and experiences over the barriers of language, time and distance. Each culture on earth has a cultural heritage which speaks to the higher aspects of our lives. The New York '89 festival should invite the nations of the world to send the best in opera, ballet, symphonies, dance, art, poetry, drama and film to New York for a World Festival of the Arts. Manhattan's premier cultural institutions, particularly Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, could become the locations for these events. Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, Central Park and other suitable locations are other sites which could handle this cultural cavalcade. The World's Fair Guide Book would be the master calendar for all of the times and locations of these events which could be offered at a variety of admission or subscription programs. (i.e.— admission to the fair could include some events, others could be purchased separately, some might be open for free). Groups from the Bolshoi Ballet to the Vienna Opera, from the Peking Symphony to Peruvian folk dances could be invited to participate. New York has the facilities. New York regularly attracts the best from around the world. 1989 can be the showcase of what kind of stage New York provides the world.

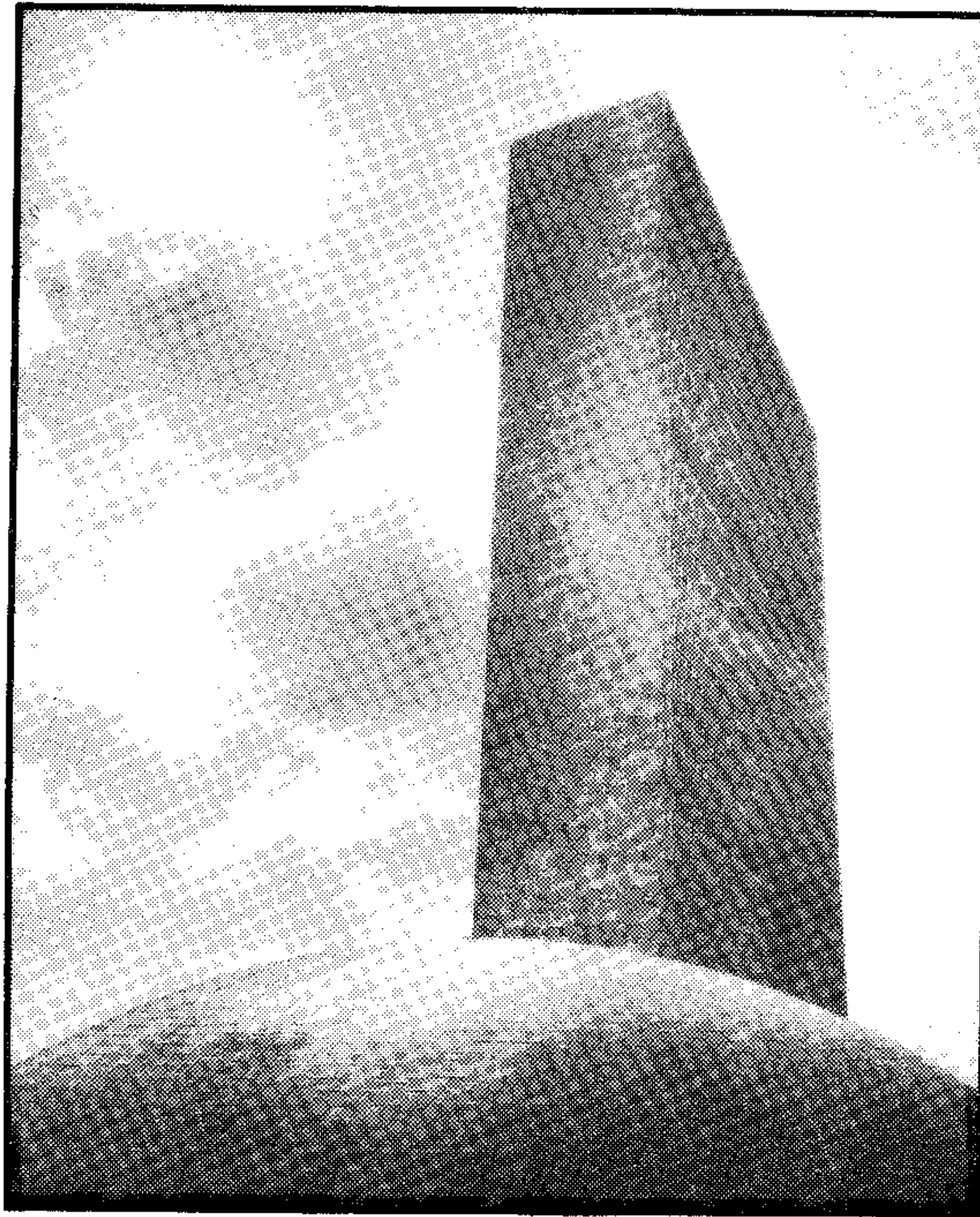
(2) **The National American Fine Arts Festival** — New York's extensive cultural and artistic resources are the creation of a highly diverse and mixed urban culture, which is in itself a reflection of an American society that has its roots in many different ethnicities and nationalities. The artistic forms that have grown out of this mix are unique, for they are derived from a multitude of traditions which were then subject to free interpretation. America's artists brought new levels of sophistication to classical forms of painting and

sculpture; new forms of art, such as jazz and modern dance, and aspects of modern architecture, were created out of the interactions between different cultures in the setting of American tastes and technology. The world has embraced the artistic innovations and they have become a fundamental part of the shared experience of the twentieth century. The New York World's Fair Corporation proposes a Fine Arts Festival, of the same calibre as the World Cultural Festival, which will explore this important, cross-cultural heritage in which New York has played such an historically crucial role. New York's variety of cultural groups and art institutions have the scope and versatility to make such a festival one of the most memorable aspects of the Fair. All of the resources, which have already been described in this report, can be expected to participate directly or indirectly in the proposed festival.

For example, the Metropolitan Museum of Art could draw from its vast collection for a magnificent exhibition on American painting and sculpture — including not only American work but also the many foreign works that influenced them. The Metropolitan Opera could stage both traditional and modern works. The New York City Ballet could perform many of its world-renowned original works, as well as some of the more classical ballet pieces that established the basic discipline of the dance.

The Museum of Broadcasting at 1 East 53rd Street could present a special retrospective on the 50 years of television in American life. The museum contains a vast tape and kinescope library of documentaries, news, dramatic and comedy shows. The Newport Jazz Festival or its apparent successor, the Big Apple Jazz Festival, could review the origins of jazz and then update them to today's styles. Other appropriate institutions would also celebrate the derivation and American transformation of architecture, handicrafts, literature, drama, photography, and graphics.

These and the many more rich possibilities for the festival can use institutions and activities already located in New York, and would have a home theater, hall, or museum space that could be made available for special events during the Fair. The proposed date of summer 1989 is advantageous because it occurs during the annual period of lull in the cultural season, when pressure on cultural facilities is minimal.

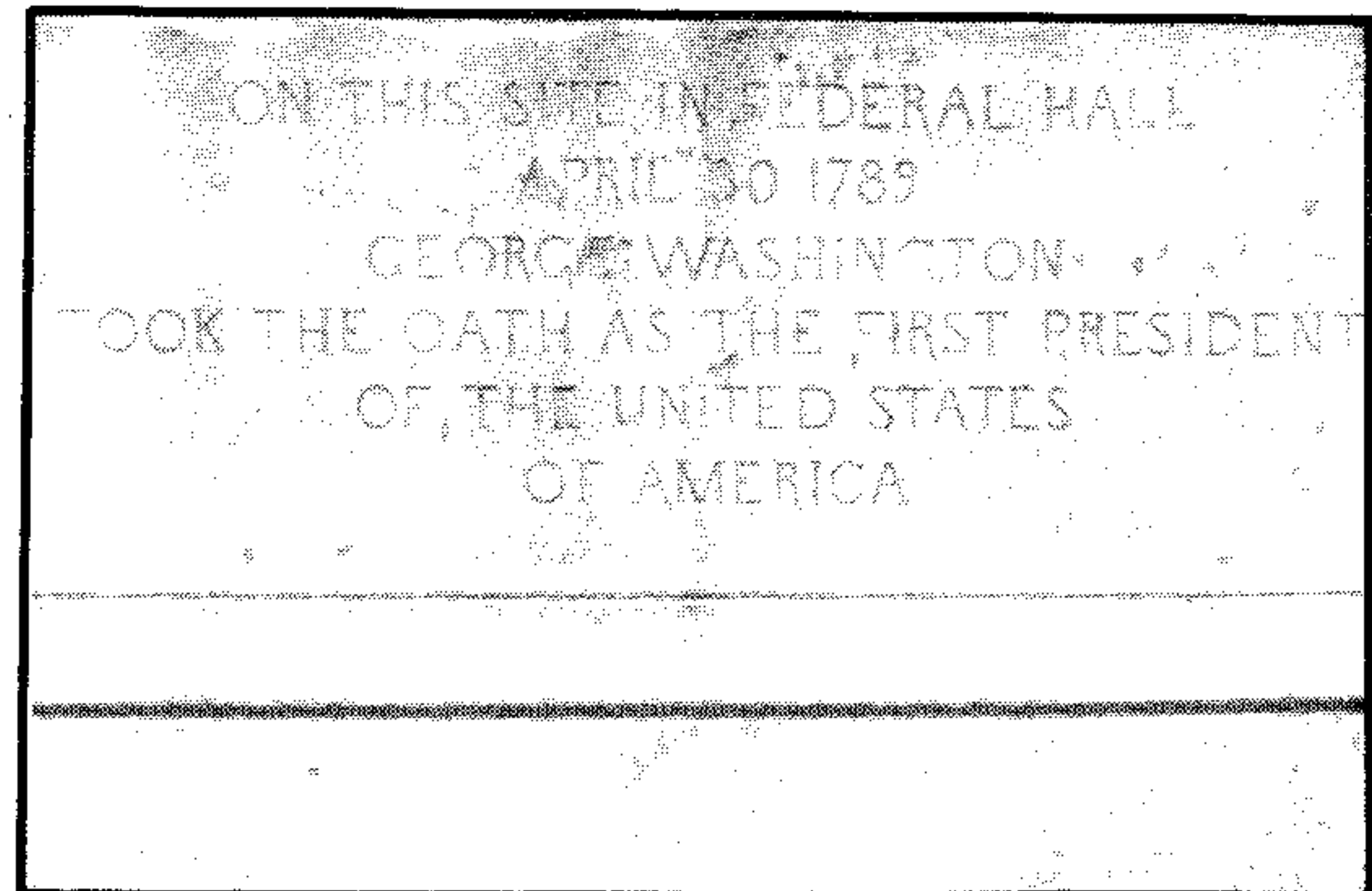


United Nations

(3) **The World Communications Conference** — the United Nations should be the site for a special international conference to examine the role which communications and information technology has played in clarifying the world, and explore ways in which these technological advances can be used for the betterment of all mankind to bring about greater harmony among the world's peoples. Experts and scholars from all fields can participate in this examination of the New Revolution.

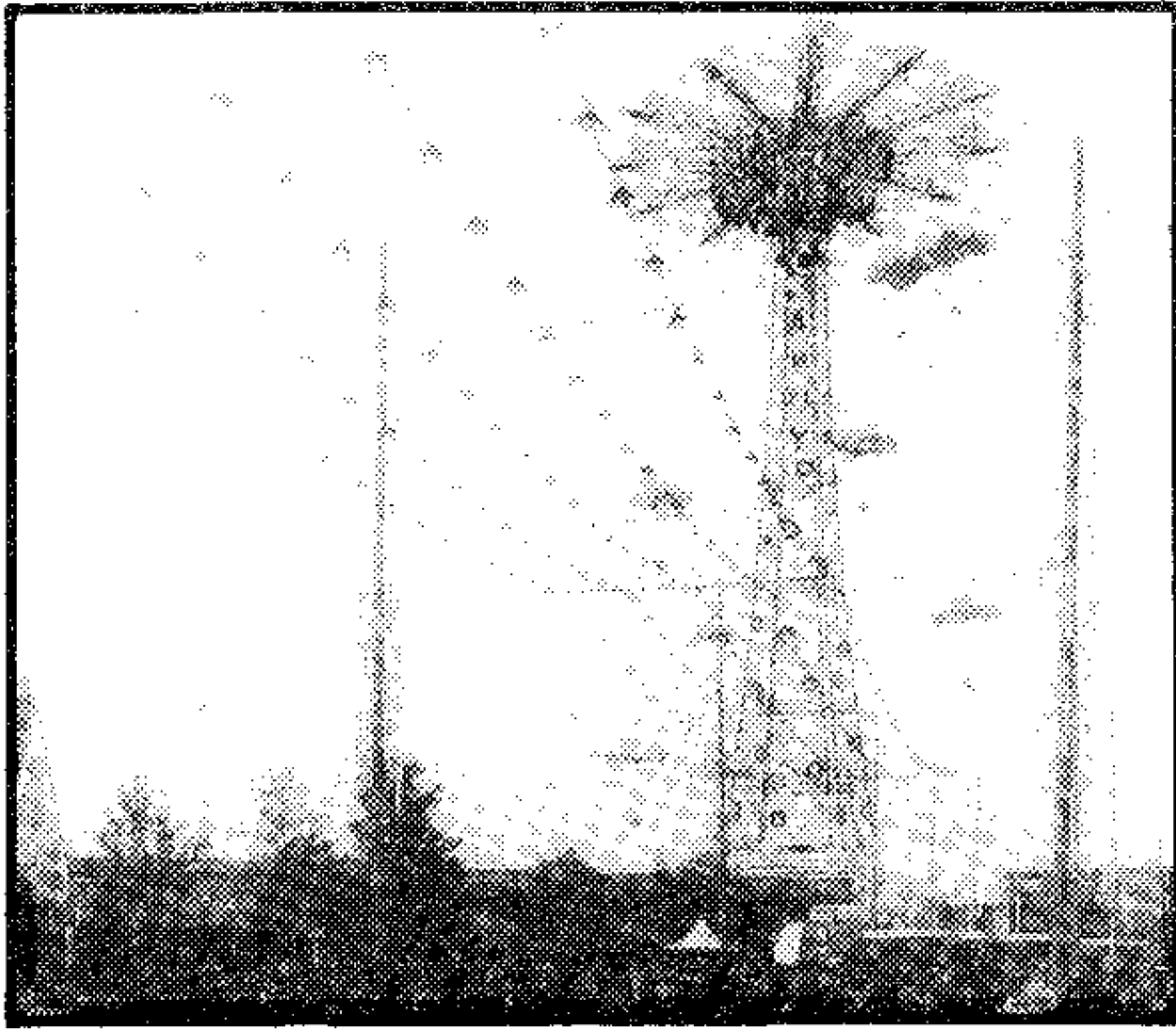
4) **The Constitutional Conference** — We propose that a National Constitutional Conference (as opposed to a convention) be held in the city of Philadelphia in 1987 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the drafting of that document in that city. This 3 month event (June to August) should invite leaders from every field of national life to examine where the document has taken us in the past 200 years and how the Constitution will face the demands of a 21st century existence. This conference could leave one of the most significant legacies of the fair for the future of our national life. The results of this conference should then be presented in a clear and dramatic fashion in 1989 at the Federal Hall National Historic Site on Broad and Wall Streets in Manhattan, the exact site of George Washington's inauguration. This exhibit, coupled with weekly presentations by participants in the conference) can spell out the true theme of the fair and, hopefully, provide a direction for the future. The exhibition should also contain a lively Bicentennial retrospective on 200 years of the American Presidency.

And, of course, in keeping with the fair's citywide focus, the other myriad cultural institutions throughout the borough, from the Big Apple Circus to the Museum of the City of New York, from the Museum of the American Indians and the other ethnic museums, to the New York Public Library, can offer a special six-month calendar of World's Fair theme-related attractions.



Plaque at Federal Hall, New York

The Fun Grounds: Coney Island



The Parachute Jump

There is a structure that passengers on incoming ships arriving to America from Europe see first, before any building or bridge, before, even, the Statue of Liberty. It is a tall, slender, graceful structure that was originally built as an amusement attraction for the 1939 New York World's Fair. It was disassembled after the fair and reconstructed along the boardwalk at Coney Island in Brooklyn where it became famous for nearly three decades as a great thrill attraction.

The Parachute Jump was then abandoned when George C. Tilyou's famed Steeplechase Park died in the 1960's. As the laughs and screams of visitors were no longer heard, the stately tower still stood high above the Atlantic Ocean; a proud reminder of what Coney Island had been. The local residents even dubbed it — "the Eiffel Tower of Brooklyn."

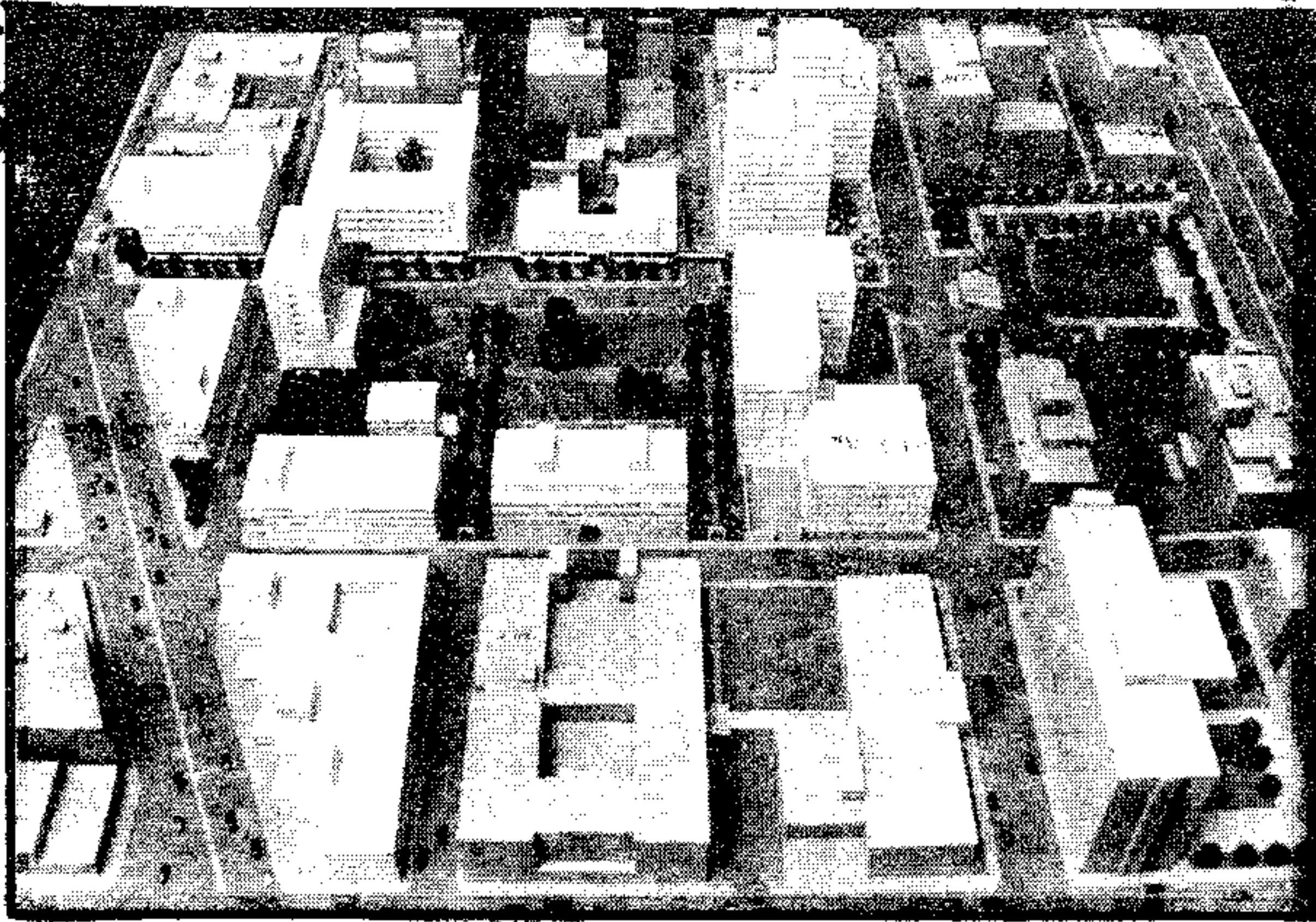
Thousands of city residents flock to this seaside park each summer, but sadly the vacant lots and seedy structures that dot the area lend a look of decay and indifference to the place. The area does boast the Astroland Amusement Park and the famous Cyclone roller coaster which has been thrilling riders for over 55 years. Coney Island still has its famous Nathan's hot-dog stand and the first class New York Aquarium.

But gone are the reminders that this area was once the city's great seaside resort. "Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland" was a song that paid homage to the delights of the amusement park named in the tune. Jimmy Durante, Eddie Canter and Cary Grant began their careers there. Lillian Russell and Diamond Jim Brady spent their giddy summers there also. By boat and by mass transit they came for over 100 years to this spot for a breath of fresh air, good food and drink, the ocean breeze and fine old fashioned fun.

Coney Island, like the South Bronx, is known all over the world. But it is not known for what it is today, but for what it once was and meant. We propose that instead of erecting an amusement zone on the central Fairgrounds, that a first-class Amusement and Fun Zone be established along the waterfront and boardwalk of Coney Island. Private developers should be encouraged to develop a quality theme park, on the order of a Disney park or a Tivoli Gardens or the La Ronde amusement park at Expo '67. (New York City has no major amusement park of its own.) This permanent park would be centered from the Parachute Jump, which should be preserved as a symbolic landmark tower, to the Aquarium, preserving the existing facilities such as Astroland and the Cyclone while refurbishing and giving a new life to the remainder of the area. We propose a design that would bring to it a "brand new old look" by adding state-of-the-art amusements and preserving the historical feel of one of the world's first great amusement areas.

Coney Island in the 1920's





Metrotech

Other Brooklyn projects which could become part of the New York '89 festival would be to involve the proposed "Metrotech" center into the fair's communications theme. Plans for this \$171 million high technology center to be located in downtown Brooklyn. The proposed center would be financed jointly by the New York City Public Development Corp. and the Polytechnic Institute of New York. Its location in the downtown Brooklyn area would be bounded by Jay Street, Tillary Street, the Flatbush Avenue extension, the Manhattan Bridge and Williamsburg Street. Its 16 acres would consist of 14 structures to be used for both commercial and academic activity; it will create some 3,000 jobs in the new complex and shops that will transform the area.

The urban renewal project will include a 150,000 square foot telecommunications center and a 130,000 square foot technology library. Also a 300,000 square foot conference center that will include a hotel equipped to accommodate 400 persons. This outer borough facility can become an important educational link to the fair's theme of preparing for the New Revolution in telecommunications and the ideas and resources on the subject could be presented to the public at this location during the course of the Fair.

According to Hardy Adasko, the senior development director of the development corporation, the "center would not only support the growth of telecommunications as an industry in itself but would emphasize its importance as an intrinsic part of the city's business community."

"New York has a Lincoln Center, but it has no technological center," said George Bugliarello, president of the institute. "And yet the city and all of its commerce is dependent on technology. In the past, New York has given little thought to training people in office technology, which has become an essential part of big business. Who teaches managers to manage systems in which there isn't even a theory of management? New York has a vast store of resources in this area that is yet to be used. Because of the availability of these resources, we can build a telecommunications center in New York that is comparable to the Route 128 region of Massachusetts or California's Silicon Valley."

Bugliarello added that Metrotech also would create a "complete marketplace" which would allow for the research, marketing and teaching of telecommunications, all within the metropolitan area. This kind of proximity, he said, would provide an incentive for scientifically oriented businesses to remain in the state.

Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden called the project a "crucial boost" to attracting technology-oriented businesses to Brooklyn.

Return to Brooklyn

Another possible Brooklyn project that could, if approved, be slated for completion to coincide with the Fair would be the proposal of State Senator Thomas Bartosiewicz (D. Brooklyn) to create a closed stadium in downtown Brooklyn and bring back major league baseball to that county as a means of reviving his home borough's economy as well as restoring its special pride and identity.

"Is there anyone who doubts the impact on Brooklyn when the Dodgers deserted our borough and its 2½ million people?", the Senator said recently. "Something very important died in our City when the Dodgers left. And at a time when most of our ethnic and racial groups are at each other's throats, our professional sports teams give everyone, regardless of background, something good to feel about, relate to and cheer for.

"Brooklyn lost its beloved 'Bums' because we didn't have the foresight to see that professional sports was becoming a major league business nationally. We can't allow our city to become a minor league town because of a 'bush league' approach to the importance of sports to N.Y." Just as the completion of Shea Stadium and the return of national league baseball to the city coincided with the opening of the 1964 Fair, perhaps the cheers of Brooklyn fans for a home team can return in time for April of '89.

What could be more American than a revival of Coney Island and the return of Baseball to Brooklyn U.S.A.?

The Liberty Festival: Staten Island & N.Y. Harbor



Verrazano-Narrows Bridge

The longest suspension span in the world connects the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island. Named after Giovanni di Verrazano, the explorer who first sailed through the Narrows in 1524, the bridge forms a graceful gateway to the greatest Harbor in the world. A harbor that has welcomed the great ships of the earth. A harbor that welcomed the huddled masses who yearned to be free.

We propose that a great Liberty Festival take place in 1989 throughout the various sites in New York Harbor and Staten Island which will celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Constitutional government.

Staten Island has been termed "Rural, urban, in between...a network of neighborhoods...what New York used to be." Staten Island can celebrate both aspects of its unique character in 1989. At historic Fort Wadsworth and along Gateway National Park are preserved reminders of our Revolutionary era. Special events commemorating the 13 year struggle of American Independence that led to the formation of our Constitutional government in 1789 can be recreated at these locations. The Richmondtown Restoration, a village of preserved colonial houses and shops could also be the site for many events. Ecological themes should be highlighted in sections of the Gateway National Park, which includes portions of the waterfront along Staten Island, Brooklyn and Jamaica Bay in Queens.

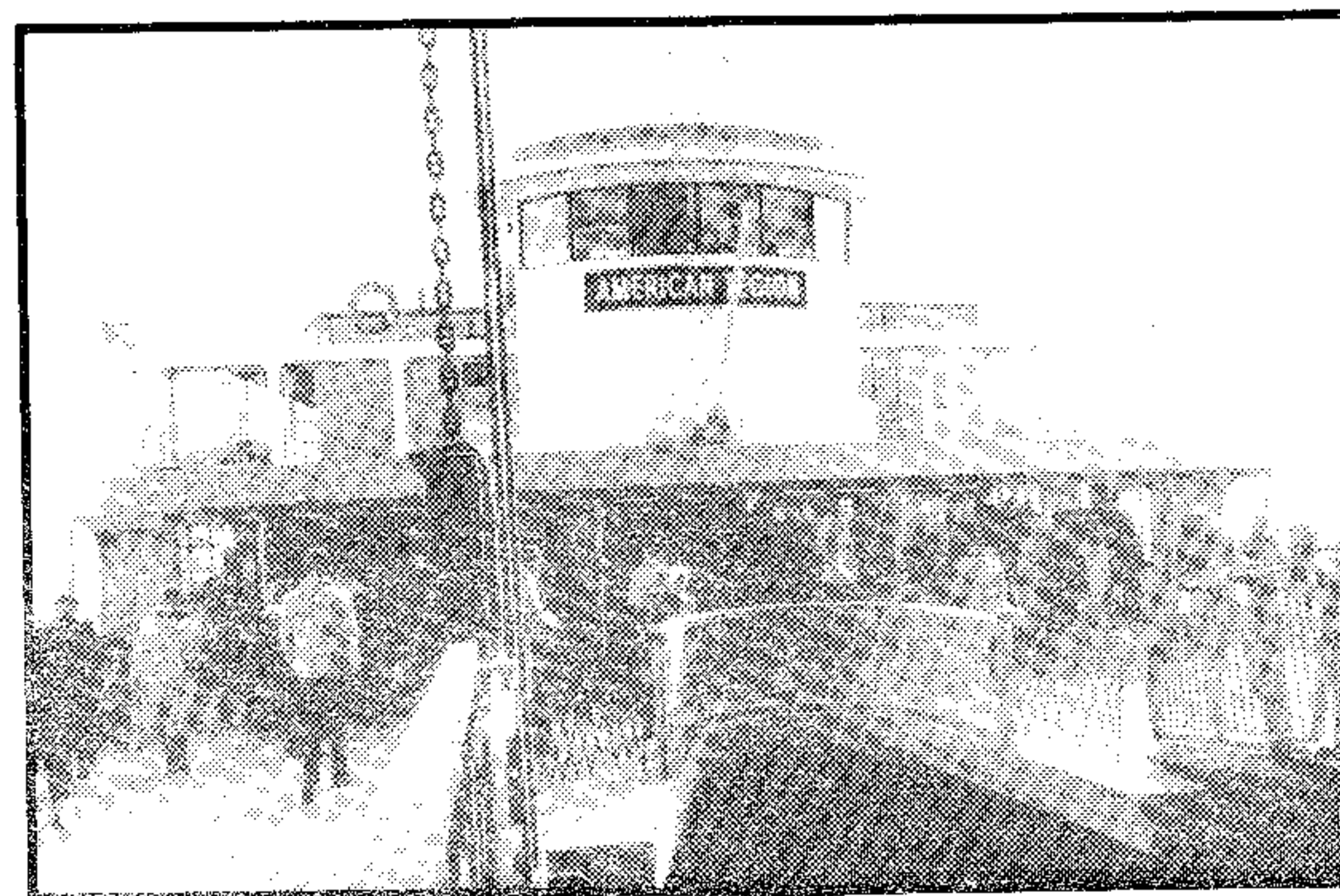
Far, we've been traveling far
Without a home, but not without a star
Free, only want to be free
We huddled close & hang on to that dream.
On the boats and on the planes
They're coming to America
Never looking back again
They're coming to America
Home it's a new and shining place
Make our bed and say our grace
Freedom's light burning warm
Freedom's light burning warm.

—America
(by Neal Diamond)

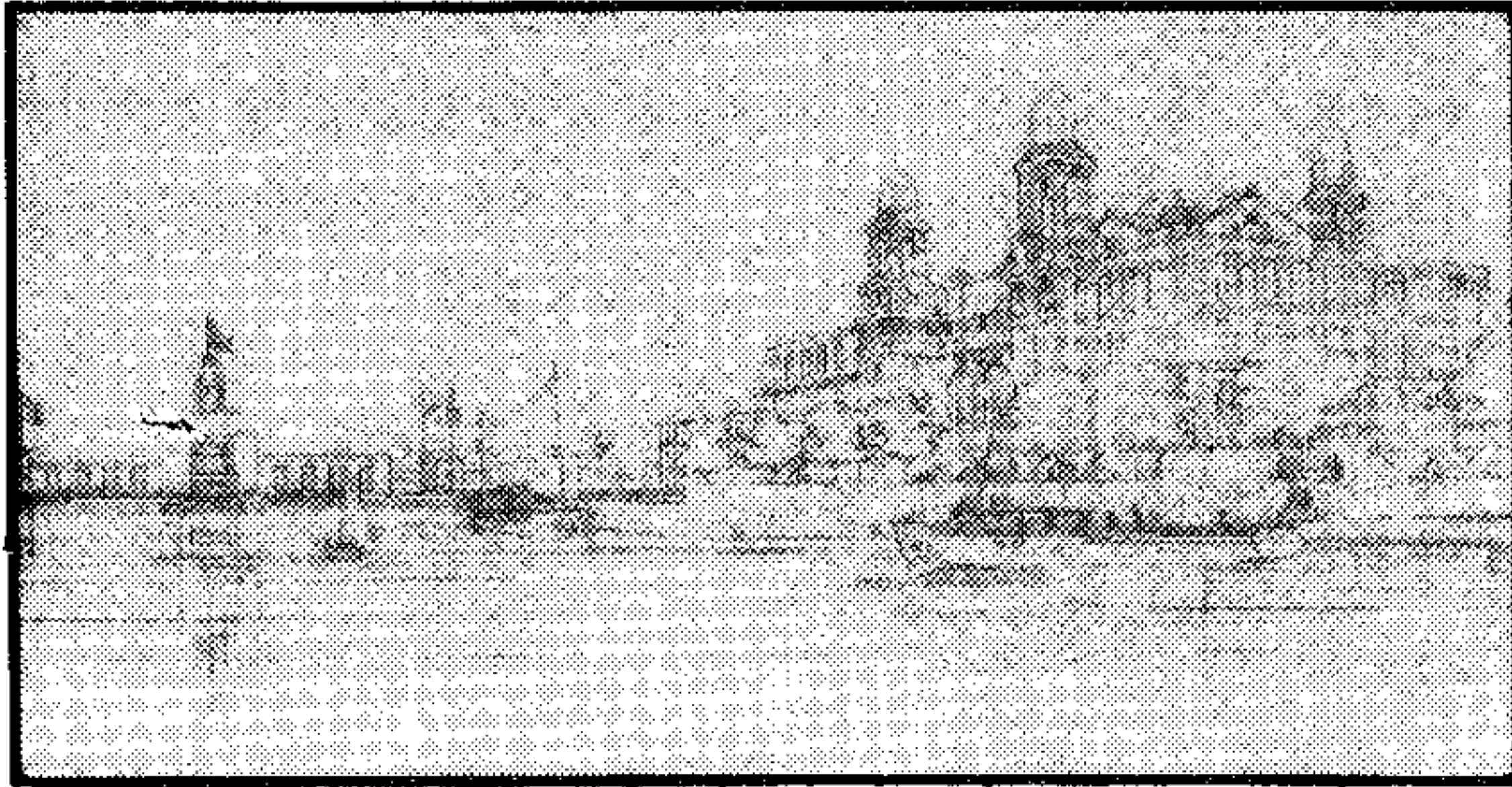
Communications would be emphasized on a different strata, communion with nature and the self. By 1989, Staten Island will have one of the largest telecommunications centers in the nation and its facilities could stress the borough's role as an emerging economic force in the region.

The Liberty Festival

The New York World's Fair 1989 Corporation proposes that the official kick-off to the public preparation period of the fair begin three years before opening day (just as the 1939 fair had its official groundbreaking three years before its opening in 1936.) This three year period would heighten the public awareness of the project, building excitement and civic pride. The fair would be launched on October 28, 1986 with a huge celebration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Statue of Liberty. This national monument, the gift of the people of France to the United States, was erected on a pedestal on what was then called Bedloes Island in New York Harbor and it was dedicated on October 28, 1886. Lifting her lamp beside the golden door, this monument has meant Freedom and Liberty to millions from around the world where it has become the very symbol of America. 1986 should be the time when a year long series of events should be held commemorating the construction and dedication of the Statue of Liberty, culminating with a great Harbor Festival on October 28. At that time, a special delegation of ships should navigate from the Marina at Flushing Bay following Groundbreaking ceremonies at Flushing Meadows, touching upon



Staten Island Ferry



Proposed Ellis Island Restoration

the proposed sites for the fair at the South Bronx, United Nations, Coney Island, Gateway National Park in Staten Island, and finally the Statue of Liberty where gala ceremonies and fireworks will take place.

On Sunday, April 30, 1989, the Fair would officially open. The President of the United States should arrive by boat into New York harbor that morning, recreating President Washington's triumphant arrival there exactly 200 years before. The Presidential party would then disembark at the Battery, proceeding to an interdenominational religious service at Trinity Church on Broadway and Wall Street, the church where Washington prayed before his inauguration. After the service, the President would walk down Wall Street to Federal Hall at Broad Street where he would be joined by all living former U.S. Presidents for a recreation of Washington's inauguration and a celebration of 200 years of the American Presidency. Following these ceremonies, the Presidential party would proceed to the South Street Seaport where boats would leave for the trip to Flushing Meadows, passing some of the borough sites along the way. At the Theme Center, on the site where President Roosevelt had opened the 1939 Fair, the official opening ceremonies would be held, with the President of the United States and other speakers addressing the significance of the twin anniversaries being marked on that date, and on the role that the Fair must take in the shaping of the future. Where President Roosevelt's opening address was carried on only a few hundred receivers within a 50 mile radius of the Fairgrounds in 1939, these ceremonies could be carried to millions of viewers throughout the world. It is interesting to contemplate the possibility that the 1989 Fair might launch some new and revolutionary form of communications that would have as significant an impact as television has had on all our lives.

After the official launching on April 30th, the six-month Liberty Festival would take place in and around the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Staten Island sites and on Liberty State Park in New Jersey. The focus of the exhibits and events that would take place at these sites would be to illuminate the ways in which our own international community has thrived in collaboration to build the City of New York.

Ellis Island is the second Plymouth Rock, with more than 100 million Americans tracing their roots there. Proposals are currently being received by the Federal government from private developers to preserve and utilize the historic structures on this island. The State of New Jersey is also looking into ways to develop and utilize Liberty State Park, which is directly across from the Statue of Liberty. If these plans materialize, it would be appropriate to incorporate them into the Liberty '89 festival.

Finally, we propose that the high point of the Liberty Festival be an encore of the gala parade of Tall Ships from around the world that celebrated the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976. As we celebrate the Bicentennial of the establishment of the American Constitutional government, we should invite the nations of the world to once again come to New York Harbor for a giant "Operation Sail" on July 4, 1989.



Liberty Island and Manhattan

A 1989 NEW YORK WORLDS FAIR -- MAJOR STEPS

← TIME →

TODAY

PRE-FAIR PERIOD

OPERATING PERIOD

POST FAIR PERIOD

ABOUT
9/1/81

BEFORE:
10/31/83

4/30/84

4/30/89

ABOUT
10/31/89

APPLY
FOR
FEDERAL
APPROVAL

APPLY
TO
BIE

BIE
REGISTERS
FAIR

FAIR OPENS

FAIR CLOSES

COURT
ORDERS
CERTIFICATE
OF
DISSOLUTION

PRELIMINARY
PLANNING

FEDERAL
CONSIDER-
ATION
POSSIBLY
PUBLIC
HEARINGS

BIE
CONSIDER-
ATION

COMPLETION PLANNING

- DEVELOP SITE
- CONSTRUCT FACILITIES
- EXECUTE CONTRACTS
- COORDINATE EXHIBITORS
AND CONCESSIONAIRES
ACTIVITIES
- OBTAIN FINANCING

CONDUCT OPERATIONS

- MANAGE
- SECURE FACILITIES
- CONTROL TRANSACTIONS

-DEMOLISH TEMPORARY
STRUCTURES

- LIQUIDATE ASSETS
- REDEVELOP SITE
- SETTLE CLAIMS
- REPAY LIABILITIES
- COMMISSION FAIR
HISTORY